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Saipan Tribune

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200 checks, 150 plane tickets remain uncollected. **PAGE 2**

LPG price rollback in three weeks. **PAGE 5**

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the idea of stopping future automatic increases in the CNMI's minimum wage?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Sister City

For the first time in CNMI history, the municipality of Saipan had signed a sister-cities agreement with a city in India.

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$3 Trillion

President Bush seeks to seal his legacy in the nation's first-ever $3 trillion budget.

NATION...Page 15

Comedy Nights

Hawaii, comedian, radio and TV personality Augie T. was on Saipan for a two-night comedy show.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

NMI spending less on education

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

With a budget that has not significantly changed since 1998, the Commonwealth is spending less and less on each child that goes to a public school on the islands.

According to the Public School System, the general cost of sending a child to a public school has shrunk by over 6 percent versus the amount it used to spend to subsidize a student's education in Fiscal Year 2001.

With a student population of 10,742 currently enrolled in CNMI public schools from Kindergarten to grade 12, the Public School System can only ante up some $3,333 per student, which is $262 less than the $3,602

See NMI on Page 4

Winners Corp. closes today

337 alien workers, 28 resident workers jobless

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A total of 337 alien workers and 28 resident workers will be jobless today when garment manufacturer Winners Corp. ceases operations.

Labor investigator Carlos Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he is going to Winners Corp.'s factory in Afetnas tomorrow, Wednesday, to serve Labor's order to the company and workers. Camacho said he will explain to the workers the Labor administrative order issued by Jerry Cody.

Cody revoked the work permits of the 337 alien workers effective today, Tuesday. These workers are mostly Chinese. He granted all the alien workers an opportunity to find new jobs.

The hearing officer informed the alien workers that they may transfer to non-garment jobs if they are qualified

See WINNERS on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Parent participant Tina Ahamed reads a book for students during the CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Literacy Program's 10th Year Anniversary kick-off activity at the William S. Reyes Elementary School Saturday morning.

Sasamoto defends his Napoleon wrasse catch

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

A handful of community members have expressed outrage over the recent catch of two Napoleon wrasses on Saipan but the diver who caught them said he didn't do anything wrong.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tony Roberts, left, and Felix Sasamoto pose with the 102-lb. Napolon wrasse, or *tangison* in Chamorro, they caught off Obyan Beach on Jan. 29.

Merchant marine Capt. Carl Brachear said it is rather sad that, although in many countries Napoleon wrasses are protected, that is not the case in the CNMI.

"This is really sad, as they are so rare in the world," Brachear said.

Felix Sasamoto of the Division of Fish & Wildlife caught the two Napoleon wrasses just two weeks ago.

"I don't understand why these people are angry. I didn't do anything wrong. I didn't break

See SASAMOTO on Page 4

Local

200 checks, 150 plane tickets remain uncollected

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

Until now, not a single worker has inquired with the Department of Labor about the expired 200 checks and 150 plane tickets owed to nonresident workers that remain uncollected at Labor.

Labor Administrative Division director Rose Ada-Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that, based on her verification with the Division of Immigration's Border Management System, some of these workers are still here in the CNMI.

Ada-Hocog said that since *Saipan Tribune* published the news about the unclaimed checks and tickets on Jan. 18, 2008, no one has come to her office to follow up on the checks or the plane tickets.

She, however, pointed out that these checks are now useless because they are outdated or expired.

The director said the total amount of these checks is over $100,000.

Ada-Hocog earlier disclosed that the checks have different amounts, with the smallest at $4.25, while many are in the thousands of dollars.

She reiterated Labor's position that it is not the responsibility of the department to contact the employees who are owed compensation.

Most of the checks and tickets were issued mostly to Chinese garment workers, Ada-Hocog said.

She said she is trying to check with the Border Management System to determine who among these nonresident workers are still here and who have already left the CNMI.

She said they are going to advice the bonding companies as well as the employers about the unclaimed checks and tickets and whether they want to re-issue them because they are already outdated.

Ada-Hocog said these checks and tickets were previously in possession of the Labor Enforcement Section before they were transferred to her when she created the Labor Collections Unit in the latter part of 2006.

She said they are checking the Labor and Immigration Identification System whether these workers still have valid work permits or have other employers.

The director said they are also checking the Attorney General's Investigative Unit if there are any of these workers who have pending immigration cases.

"I'm not done with the Border Management System verification yet. Once we have done everything we will be releasing the names with the permission of the Labor Secretary," she said.

After checking with the BMS, Ada-Hocog said, the next step would be a meeting with Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas and Labor counsel Eleanor Nisperos to review everything.

"I need to find out where are our boundaries are, like if we can ask the companies to redo it [re-issue the checks]," she said.

Some of the checks and tickets were issued in 1992 and the latest were made in 2007. Some companies had already closed.

Ada-Hocog said she is not sure if they can still tap the bonding companies because the latter also have their limitations.

"Our only message to them [alien workers] is that we do have these unclaimed checks and tickets—all expired—and we want to see what we can do to have new ones. So they should be on the lookout. They can e-mail me and I will verify. They can check me at rosetada@yahoo.com or at rtahocog@cnmigov.net," she said.

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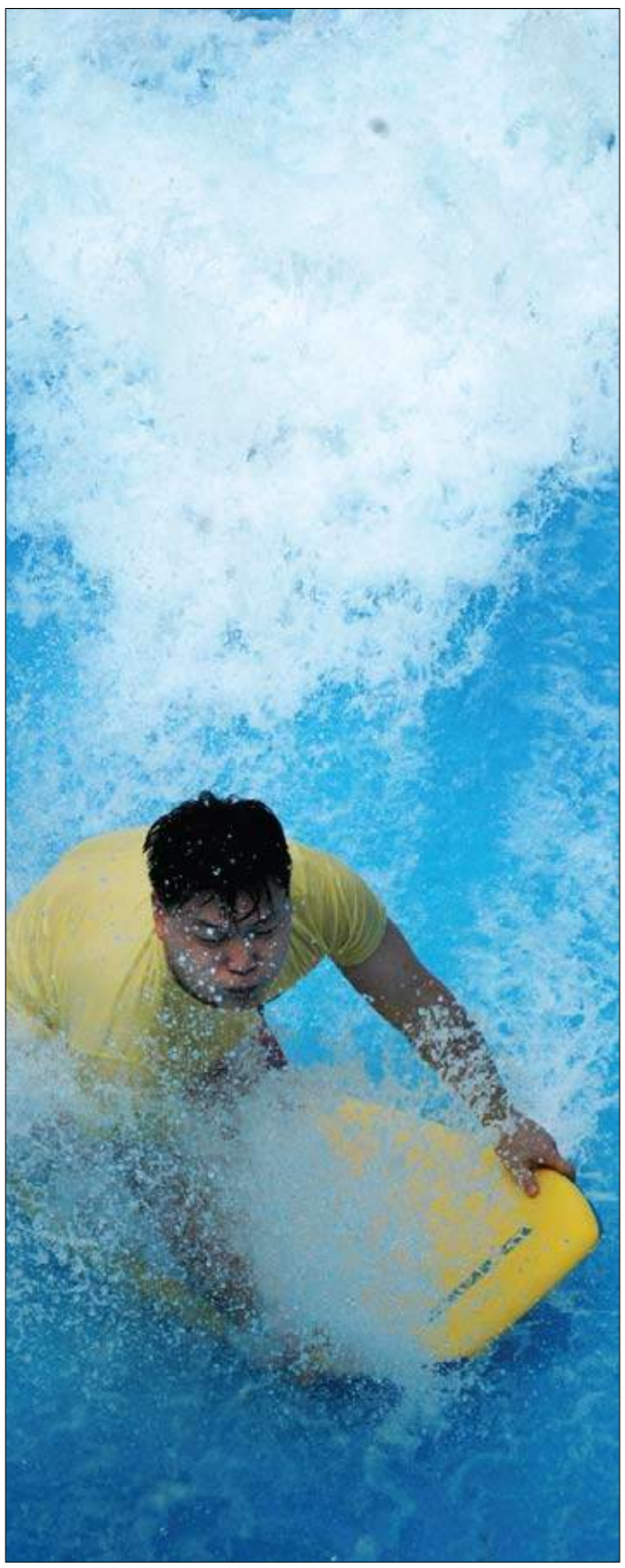

POINT BREAK JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A tourist body boards the rushing waves at the Point Break Flowrider of the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Pula takes over Cohen's Interior post

U.S. Office of Insular Affairs director Nikolao Pula is now the acting deputy assistant secretary of the interior for insular affairs.

Pula

The acting post automatically went to Pula after David Cohen's resignation turn into effect on Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008.

This is not the first time Pula is serving as the lead official for Washington's relationships with U.S. possessions and freely associated states. He held the job in an acting capacity for 18 months before Cohen's appointment in 2002.

But in an interview last month, Pula said he was not too keen on getting the appointed position in an official, as opposed to acting, capacity.

"It's a political job, and mine is a career job. I think I would like to stay in my career job," said Pula, who has risen through the ranks since joining the Interior Department in 1993.

Because the position of deputy assistant secretary is appointed, its term ends with that of the U.S. president. A new president will assume office in January 2009.

Pula visited the Commonwealth on Jan. 14-15. He was accompanied by budget director Tom Bussanich and CIP grants manager Faride Komisar from OIA's office in Washington, D.C.

Pula, Bussanich, and Komisar attended the inauguration of 16th Legislature and later met Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez. Pula and the governor discussed capital improvement project grants and infrastructure issues.

Pula also met with Senate President Pete Reyes, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, local businessmen, and a few community groups. He took a tour of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Man allegedly throws wife to the floor

A woman lost consciousness when her husband allegedly threw her down to the floor, causing her head to hit the corner of their cabinet at their residence in Lower Navy Hill Sunday morning.

The victim sustained a lump to the head. She had difficulty walking when a police officer responded to the scene, according to a detective in his report.

The husband, Zaldy P. Quebral, 34, was arrested for assault and domestic battery.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama set a $2,500 cash bail for Quebral's temporary liberty.

Preliminary hearing was set for Feb. 13.

The victim told police that she and Quebral are having problems because he has an affair with another woman.

She said that on Sunday morning she tried to wake up Quebral and when he got up he grabbed her arms and picked her up.

The alleged victim said her husband threw her backwards to the floor. Her head hit the corner of the cabinet, causing her to lose consciousness.

When she later regained consciousness, she was already lying in the living room couch and that Quebral was putting water on her lips, she said.

She said Quebral then grabbed her cheeks and threatened to punch her. That's when she called 911 in fear for her safety and for her children.

When the police officer arrived, Quebral was in the bedroom. He was then placed under arrest. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Sablan skeptical of Labor wage hike impact report

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A lawmaker has raised doubt about the conclusion reached by the U.S. Department of Labor on the impact of wage hikes on the Commonwealth.

Rep. Tina Sablan said the impact study failed to show conclusively that further wage increases would harm the CNMI economy.

Sablan

"I was taken aback by some of the conclusions primarily because of the methods and data that even they [U.S. Labor officials] admitted were flawed," Sablan said.

She added that since the first wage hike in July 2007, too little time has lapsed to say what the impact has been on the local community.

"There really is no conclusion yet," said Sablan.

The lawmaker acknowledged that the 50-cent increase to the local minimum wage has had some impact on the economy. But to what extent it has affected businesses and workers is difficult to tell. "The overall downturn of the economy, the expensive power rates—all of these factors are cutting into people's budget," she said.

She also said the study is not objective, as most of the people interviewed for the study have all along objected to the minimum wage increase.

Nevertheless, Sablan said that if the next scheduled increase must be put off, the postponement should not serve as a reason for the CNMI to not revisit the issue again.

"I would like to see some assurance that we're still committed to the goal of bringing the local minimum wage to federal level. We should not put it off indefinitely," she said.

The U.S. Labor, in a report to Congress, said that the scheduled minimum wage increases for the CNMI are expected to worsen the Commonwealth's economic problems.

"With both of its major industries declining simultaneously, the CNMI economy is in overall decline, and its current economic situation makes it especially vulnerable to additional shocks. While data are not available to precisely quantify the impact of the recent and scheduled future increases in the minimum wage, it seems likely that the current economic decline may be made worse," states the report.

The U.S. Labor's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy prepared the report in response to the requirement of the federal wage hike law. The law states that the Labor secretary should report to Congress the findings of a study assessing the projecting the impacts of minimum wage increases on the CNMI and American Samoa. Both jurisdictions fell under federal wage policy for the first time.

A bill has been introduced in the U.S. Congress to allow U.S. Labor to adjust federal wage increases based on their potential impact on the CNMI and American Samoa.

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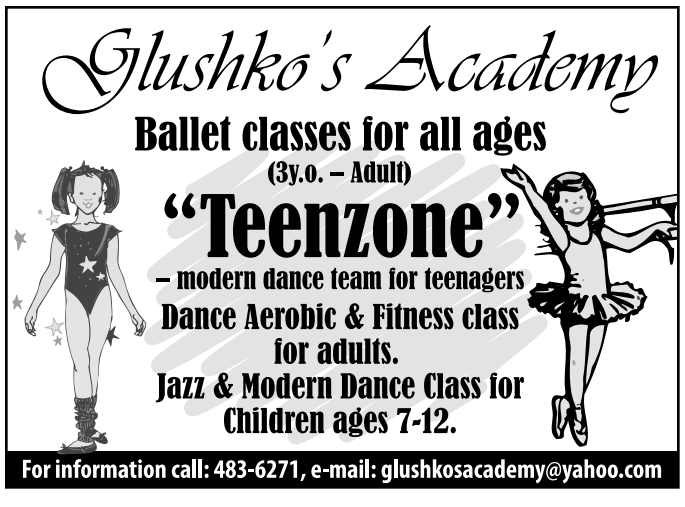
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Solomons public workers demand wage hike

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—The Solomon Islands Public Sector Unions are demanding government for a 33 percent wage and salary increase for their members.

Spokesperson for the unions Johnley Hatimoana told Solomon Star that this percentage is based on the cost of living adjustment for 2006 to 2008.

Hatimoana said the cost of living adjustment was presented to the government in October last year but to this date no progress has been made.

"Now we want to reactivate it," the spokesperson said.

A negotiating committee has been established to talk with permanent secretaries of ministries responsible for implementing the increase.

"Whether they like it or not this is our demand because we can no longer cope with the increasing price of food and other goods," Hatimoana said.

He said the increase is not only for those in Honiara City but also those in provinces.

The general wage increase for 2006 was 12.5 per cent, 2007 10.5 per cent and this year 10.0 per cent which all add up to 33 per cent.

A part from the demand for salary and wage increase, Hatimoana said they would also want government to assist trade unions directly or indirectly in areas like:

- Training of rank and file members
- Capacity building and strengthening of existing unions and association and
- To provide legal assistance.

The Solomon Islands Public Sector Unions are all unions whose employees are paid by the government.

PRISON VISITORS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

From left, Rose Pangelinan, Esther Delos Reyes, Carlyn Hofschneider and Doris Torres grace the opening ceremony of the state-of-the-art adult prison facility in Susupe Saturday morning.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Bainimarama declares disaster after Fiji storm

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—Fiji's interim Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama has declared the cyclone and flood ravaged areas around the country a state of natural disaster. Cyclone Gene hit the country's main islands last week, killing at least seven people and causing widespread damage. A government spokesman says local authorities and disaster management officials now have legal powers to provide prompt relief and rehabilitation to the affected cyclone and flood victims. Police have also been given extra powers. The spokesman says the declaration will be in place for 30 days.

Aussie officials on goodwill tour of Pacific

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Two Australian Parliamentary Secretaries visiting Samoa, Tonga and Kiribati this week will discuss regional issues as well as inspecting Australian aid projects. The tour by the Secretary for International Development Assistance, Bob McMullan, and the Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, Duncan Kerr, is part of the new approach Canberra is pursuing with Pacific neighbors. Duncan Kerr says the new Australian government is committed to a fresh approach to developing constructive relations in the region based on mutual respect and trust. "There will be a lot of opportunities for us to see on the ground work that has already been undertaken by AusAID and by the Australian representatives in the high Commissions so that we can make certain we have a clear understanding of what we have achieved, how we can add to that achievement and also the views of the government."

Cyclone swings away from Vanuatu, New Caledonia

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—Tropical cyclone Gene was moving away from Vanuatu on Saturday after lashing the southernmost islands of Futuna and Anatom throughout Friday. The Vanuatu meteorological service says it expects the cyclone has caused severe damage but there are few details as yet. Reports from the area say a number of houses on Futuna have already been destroyed. Gene is 160 kilometers south of Anatom, moving slowly towards to New Caledonia. It is expected to hit the small islands to the west of New Caledonia in around 36 hours.

NMI

From Page 1

spent on each child in 2001.

Federal programs advisor Tim Thornburgh said, "Across time the local investment in the public education of a child in the CNMI has gone steadily down from $4,629 in 1997 to $3,333 in Fiscal Year 2008."

Meanwhile, the CNMI's neighboring island of Guam spent $5,293 in local funds per student last year.

U.S. mainland public schools offer individual public school students almost twice the amount apportioned to local students at an average of more $6,000 per year and it increases by several points annually.

The budget for the Public School System, which has 19 schools under it, has actually gone down. It currently operates at $35.8 million. In 2001, this was up at $37.2 million.

The growth of student-teacher population is also showing an uneven proportion. The current student-teacher ratio is 24:1, compared to the U.S. average with 17:1.

"The ratio that we would like to have is no more than 20 students per teacher, or a 20:1 ratio," Thornburgh said.

CNMI's public school has a total of 452 classroom teachers, excluding the reading resource teachers and special education teachers.

Education Commissioner David Borja said, "Actual situation will vary from school to school."

Some schools have the ideal student-teacher ratio of 17:1, while others may have 30:1 or more.

SASAMOTO

From Page 1

any law," said Sasamoto, who maintained that he did not catch the fish at marine sanctuaries.

Michael Trianni, DFW's Fishery Section supervisor said, "As a free diver, Felix did not break any laws and has every right under existing laws to harvest that or any other fish he is able to."

Sasamoto explained that catching the large fish has helped him pay for his bills and his wife's medications.

"I want these people to know that the fish did not go to waste. I work for the DFW, I would not do anything so stupid as to catch something that is endangered," he said.

The Napoleon wrasse, according to Trianni, is not rare in the CNMI. "It has in fact been observed throughout the CNMI and is not considered uncommon," Trianni said.

"No one should blame me for catching the fish. I will continue to catch them until it becomes against the law for me to do so," Sasamoto said.

Being a diver, he said he knows for sure that the wrasses are not endangered in the CNMI. "I know a place where many of them gather. If people really want to see them, I can take them there. There are a lot of them!" exclaimed Sasamoto.

Brachear, however, begs to differ. "One main reason why Japanese divers visit Saipan at all is to swim with the wrasses," he said.

"You don't see many Japanese divers visiting Saipan anymore," Brachear said. "Instead, many of them travel to Guam because the wrasses are protected over there."

In other countries, the Napoleon wrasse is considered under threat from extinction as a direct result of the lucrative demand for live Napoleon wrasse in Asia.

Divers in the local community have shared that swimming alongside this fish is a "priceless experience."

The Napoleon wrasse is also known as a charming fish because it is very friendly, often allowing divers to stroke it or when no one is petting it, it has been known to gently nudge or brush up against a diver.

Although the wrasse is long lived, it has a very slow breeding rate. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the numbers have declined due to a number of threats.

The threats have made it an endangered animal as it is not being replaced fast enough to compensate for the excess fishing rate and other threats.

The Napoleon wrasse is currently "red-listed" by the IUCN—"meaning it is a species being adversely impacted by human activity and is susceptible to becoming critically endangered or extinct," according to marine coordinator Genevieve Johnson.

"The major problem we have here is overfishing. And some people just don't get it," Brachear said.

Johnson said, "If the current demand for the Napoleon wrasse by the live reef fish trade is allowed to continue, we may soon lose a very special animal, one that is capable of willfully associating with humans."

Wealthy patrons in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan have an insatiable appetite for the flesh of the Napoleon wrasse. It is reportedly popular in these regions to advertise one's wealth by paying upward of $1,500 to dine on a single fish, or up to $400 for a set of the wrasse's lips.

The eating of the Napoleon wrasses is not because of its superb taste, but because it serves as a status symbol, according to Wikipedia.

The meat of this fish has become expensive because it has been overfished and is a rare catch.

WINNERS

From Page 1

and that the job vacancy announcement are waived for transfer to the same job category with other garment industry employers.

"If you wish to take advantage of the opportunity to transfer, you are required to come to the Division of Employment Services and register on or before Feb. 20, 2008," Cody told the nonresident workers in his order.

He, however, noted that any employee who submits a transfer to another garment job on or before Feb. 20, 2008, is not required to register with the Division of Employment Services.

Cody said if the workers do not register with DES or submit a garment-to-garment transfer application by Feb. 20, they shall no longer be eligible to transfer.

These workers, he said, shall be then required to go to the Labor Enforcement Section immediately in order to make arrangements for their repatriation.

Winners Corp. is the fourth garment factory to shut down on Saipan this year.

On Jan. 28, 105 alien workers and 20 Federated States of Micronesia citizens became jobless when Poong-In Saipan Inc. closed its factory in Afetnas.

On Jan. 18, Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. shut down its factory in Afetnas, leaving 157 alien workers and 14 resident workers jobless.

On Jan. 13, Neo Fashion Inc. also ceased operations, rendering 88 alien workers and 13 residents workers jobless.

Neo Fashion's shutdown in San Antonio on Jan. 13, resulted in 88 foreign workers and 13 resident workers scampering for new jobs.

The anticipated closure of two other garment factories this month will bring to six the number of factories that remain standing: Rifu, Onwell Manufacturing, United International Corp., Kyung Seung Saipan Inc., Marianas Garment Manufacturing, and Uno Moda.

Many garment factories closed down on the island since January 2005, when the World Trade Organization lifted trade quotas.

The CNMI used to have 34 garment factories, all located on Saipan. The garment industry used to contribute some $60 million in direct taxes a year to the local government.

LPG price rollback in 3 weeks

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan Industrial Gas Inc. will roll back the price of its liquefied petroleum gas products in three weeks time or once the supply of its more expensive stock runs out.

The company's president Diony Lopez relayed the good news to Saipan LPG consumers in a telephone message to the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Lopez said the decrease in LPG cost will equate to 1 percent per lb. and is due to its main supplier in Guam, Shell North Pacific (Shell Guam Inc.) also slashing the price of its LPG products.

Saipan Industrial Gas did not disclose how much its LPG products currently retail per pound.

Operating in the CNMI sine 1985, Saipan Industrial Gas is located in Puerto Rico, Saipan, and sells LPG products both to commercial and residential customers.

Last Jan. 14, Saipan Industrial Gas' main competitor, Wushin Corp, announced a $0.33-increase in its products citing the increase in prices by its main supplier in Guam.

The new round of LPG price hikes by Wushin was supposed to add $6.50 to the company's 90-lbs. cylinder, $3.50 to its 50-lbs. cylinder, and a $1.50 to Wushin's 20-lbs. cylinder beginning Jan. 21.

However, in a letter sent to customers on the same day, Wushin revised its price increase to $0.18 per gallon and instead opted to absorb close to half of the price hike dictated by South Petroleum Corp., its main supplier in Guam.

Thus starting Jan. 21, Wushin's 90-lbs. cylinder would only cost $3.50 more, its 50-lbs. cylinder $2 more, and its 20-lbs. $0.75 more.

Wushin did not report any movement in the price of its LPG products when the *Saipan Tribune* called them yesterday.

Juvenile facility needs teacher

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs is seeking the help of the Public School System to provide a teacher at the Kagman Juvenile Detention and Correction Facility.

DCCA deputy secretary Melvin Faisao told Education Commissioner David Borja that DCCA has done extensive research and found that the Federal Mandates for Special Education in Juvenile Corrections summarizes three seminal federal laws, focusing primarily on the Individuals with Disabilities Education ACT or IDEA.

Faisao explained that IDEA is "landmark civil rights legislation because it guarantees free appropriate public education for all eligible children and youth with disabilities through age 21."

IDEA applies to public schools and state-operated programs, including juvenile detention and confinement facilities since its passage in 1975.

In addition to IDEA, Faisao said, "Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Education Act prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities by any program or activity that receives federal funds including correctional facilities."

He added that the ADA and Section 504 apply to juvenile correctional facilities to the extent that students with disabilities are excluded from appropriate education service or are excluded from school for misbehavior that may be related to the students' disability, or to the failure of the school program to meet the students' needs.

Faisao noted that since PSS is a grantor recipient of IDEA, DCCA is seeking its help in this matter.

Borja said they will discuss this matter with Faisao.

"If students with disabilities are billeted at the detention facilities, their names must be provided to PSS to ensure that the students' educational needs are met," Borja.

Exemption to 'double-dipping' law sought

Senate President Pete P. Reyes wants to expand the exemption given to retirees returning to government service as classroom teachers or medical practitioners.

Reyes made the proposal in the form of a legislative initiative now before the Senate.

The proposed constitutional amendment, he said, would clarify confusion that has arisen since 1997, when voters ratified an initiative granting exemptions from the "double-dipping" ban in government.

Generally, retired employees cannot return to public service without losing their pension benefits.

According to Reyes, Senate Legislative Initiative 10-4 and Public Law 11-2 exempt from this rule those retirees who return as classroom teachers or medical professionals.

But the exemption has not been used to full effect. Some interpret the constitutional amendment and statute as applicable only to people who are seeking re-employment in jobs they held prior to retirement. Medical and dental technicians, as well as other medical professionals, are also believed to be ineligible from re-employment.

"Such was never the intent of the legislative initiative or the legislation, and this proposed amendment is designed to eliminate this sort of uncertainty and misapplication by stating even more explicitly that the constitutional provision is intended to apply broadly to help the Commonwealth meet its human resources needs in the general fields stated," Reyes said.

The initiative would scrap the two-year limit for re-employment of eligible retirees. Future exemptions may be granted by statute, provided that the measure is passed by three-fourths vote of the members of each house of the Legislature. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

www.marianaslabor.net

The Department of Labor's new website is now available for posting job vacancy announcements by employers, posting resumes by persons seeking employment, and viewing of job vacancy announcements by the general public. Use of the website is free.

If you want to post a JVA, when you go to the website, please register as an employer. Your registration will be promptly reviewed by the Department of Labor. Once, your registration has been approved, you will be able to post job vacancy announcements and review resumes. You need to register only once. Only registered and approved employers are allowed to post JVAs and review posted resumes.

If you want to post a resume, when you go to the website, please register as a prospective employee. Your registration will be reviewed promptly by the Department of Labor. Once your registration has been approved, you will be able to post your resume and reply directly to posted JVAs. You need to register only once. Only registered persons in the community are allowed to post resumes and use the website to reply directly to posted JVAs.

If you want to look at posted job vacancy announcements, just visit the website. Job vacancy announcements are available for viewing by the general public. No registration is required for this purpose. Department of Labor forms and announcements will be also be available to the general public on this website for downloading.

Chamber wants its input in crafting of laws

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce looks forward to working collaboratively with the members of both the House and Senate and has planned meetings with lawmakers this month.

Chamber president James T Arenovski said he attended the installation of the Legislature last month and walked away impressed by some of the lawmakers' opening remarks.

Arenovski

"There was much talk about working together for the good of the NMI and that can only be a good thing…the chamber looks forward to working collaboratively with the members of both the House and Senate. We hope the Chamber will be used as a resource for formulating and reviewing business focused legislation," he said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The Delta Management Corp. president said that, with the islands currently bombarded with a plethora of issues ranging from the impending federalization of immigration, to the next round of minimum wage increase and decreasing revenue from its garment and tourism industries, the public and private sector finally working together to find solutions "is not such a bad idea."

"We hope that an open dialogue on important issue can be a part of our future relationship. My goal is to make sure the Chamber takes the first step and continues moving forward in building better relations with individual legislative members," he added.

Arenovski said that closer and a more productive relationship between the islands' business sector and the people tasked to make its laws are essential in hastening the CNMI's recovery from the economic doldrums it currently is mired in.

"Having the Chamber available to provide input to legislation and policy relating to business-related matters is a key part to getting Saipan poised for resurgence in our economy. I feel that all parties involved want a better Saipan; and the Chamber wants to make sure our expertise and experience is available to the Legislature when they request it to enhance our chances for success."

To this end, Arenovski and his group has also vowed to continue its plan for regular breakfast meetings with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and his cabinet in weeks or even days to come. "Breakfast meetings with the government will begin in February and March," he said.

Tudela inks sister-cities accord with India city

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and Ahmedabad Mayor Amit Shah exchange copies of the signed Sister Cities Agreement between the City of Ahmedabad, India and Saipan, CNMI, while event coordinator Tony Glad looks on, during the signing ceremony at the World Resort Saipan Saturday night.

For the first time in CNMI history, the municipality of Saipan had signed a sister-cities agreement with a city in India during a ceremony at the Saipan World Resort Saturday.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela met with the mayor of Ahmedabad City, Amit Shah, to sign the historic agreement between the two cities.

Tudela said, "Because of our diverse geographical locations in the Asia-Pacific region, it is unique for cities like Ahmedabad and Saipan work as one, for the common good."

He added that the people of the CNMI "would like to see in the future the establishment of areas of cooperation and sharing of cultural ties, information exchange, sharing technical assistance, business interests, and other areas from Ahmadebad City and the rest of India."

Shah said that he enjoyed the island's scenery and will urge his constituents, many of whom are business people, to visit the island.

Tudela said that the island has enjoyed a relationship as close as friends and strategic partners with the nations of East Asia and the western Pacific since the end of World War II.

"However, this is the first time that we have reached beyond far into South Asia," Tudela said.

Shah, who arrived Saturday, met with Tudela that same afternoon in a courtesy visit before the signing of the sister-cities agreement.

Shah returned to Ahmedabad City last night but said that he had enjoyed his stay and will one day bring his family for a visit.

Tony Glad, who runs the Island Medical Center and Glad's Nutrition, says he has been on Saipan for almost 22 years and wanted to help the CNMI's economy thrive.

Glad said that India's economy is booming like China and "we wanted to bring them in."

Ahmedabad City has a total population of 5.5 million. It is the seventh largest city in India and reportedly one of the liveliest.

Ahmedabad also served as a hub for the Indian freedom struggle with Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram on the outskirts of the city. From here he guided India to freedom.

Tudela said the relationship between Saipan and the city of Ahmedabad "is one that must be nurtured, strengthened, and preserved for the benefit of future generations.

"To do this, we must establish cultural ties, trade, tourism, technology, and commerce between our two cities," Tudela said.

GTA appoints Franquez as VP

TAMUNING, GUAM—GTA TeleGuam announced yesterday the appointment of Roland Franquez as vice president of Customer Service and Retail Sales.

Franquez's appointment took effect on Jan. 25, 2008.

Marie Mesa, vice president of GTA's People Department, said, "Roland brings 21 years of experience to GTA and we are excited to have him on board as we begin 2008. Roland will be instrumental to GTA's success in providing Always There customer service. He is also a heck of a drummer!"

Before coming to GTA, Franquez served in various positions, including general manager of Island Business Systems & Supplies, general manager at Hit Radio 100 and director of Sales, Marketing & Public Relations at PacifiCare Asia Pacific.

Roland and his wife Angelina reside in Yigo.

GTA is Guam's leading full-service telecommunications company providing fixed land-line communications to nearly 65,000 business and residential customers; MPULSE™ mobile phone service with advanced GSM technology, BlackBerry, cost effective long-distance and Spyder Broadband Internet service.

For more information, visit www.gta.net. ***(GTA)***

Roland Franquez is now GTA TeleGuam's vice president of Customer Service and Retail Sales.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
February 3, 2008

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes- January 9, 2008

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
1. Financial Report – CDA

IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
1. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
   a. Foreclosed Properties - Update
2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
   a. Status of the DBD Funds
3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget Committee
   a. Administration's Report
   b. Executive Director
4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities Committee
   a. Compliance Issues

V. OLD BUSINESS
1. Sunset Villa
2. Pacific Gardenia Hotel
3. Sablan Enterprises
4. Saipan Health Corporation (SHC)
5. Membership-ADFIAP

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. BOX 502641, SAIPAN, MP 96950-2641
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Parole Hearing is scheduled for February 07, 2008 (Thursday) beginning at 8:30 a.m., and, if need be, to continue on February 08, 2008 (Friday) at 9:00 a.m.** at the **Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections, Briefing/Training Room,** Susupe, Saipan. The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Adoption of Parole & Revocation Hearing Minutes – July 24, 2007

III. Parole Application	BOP No.	Criminal Case No.
1. Dennise O. Reyes	08-001	06-029E
2. Francisco M. Tydingco	08-002	01-0320 (C)
3. Anthony M. Barcinas	08-003	05-0370T
4. Ignacio A. Cabrera	08-004	03-0381T / 05-0007T & 05-0215T

IV. Re-Application	BOP No.	Criminal Case No.
1. Jesus N. Dowai	08-RA-001	87-143

VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman, Board of Parole

January 29, 2008
Date

'Tax exemption claims will be verified'

As part of the Commonwealth tax enforcement effort, the Department of Finance is implementing a personal exemption verification program.

The focus of this program will be to require individuals who are claiming an unusually high number of exemptions to justify these exemptions. Taxpayers found in violation of regulations are subject to fines and or penalties.

The Department of Finance is reminding all employees of the requirement to file a new withholding exemption certificate (Form W-4) should a change in status occur, which results in an employee being entitled to less withholding exemptions than previously claimed. Specifically, Northern Marianas Territorial Income Tax Section 3402(f)(2)(B) and NMTIT Regulation Section 31.3402(f)(2)-1(b) requires that the employee furnish the employer a new withholding certificate within 10 days of the change.

Below is a list of examples (non-exhaustive) of a change in status in which an employee must file a new withholding certificate. Individuals should contact their tax advisor for assistance.

a. Death of a spouse or dependent;

b. The employee is divorced or legally separated from his/her spouse for whom an exemption was claimed;

c. The employee claims his/her won withholding exemption on a separate certificate from the spouse;

d. Dependent (except a child who is a student or is under 19 years of age) for whom an exemption was claimed begins to receive income in excess of gross income limit for the immediate previous tax year, but is expected to have income exceeding the gross income limit in the current tax year;

e. You or your spouse stop working a second job;

f. When the support of a dependent for whom the employee claimed exemption is taken over by someone else, so that the employee no longer expects to furnish more than half the support for the year;

g. Should there be an increase in income that is not subject to withholding such as interest income, dividend income, capital gains, self-employment income or IRA distribution.

Willful failure to supply information required by NMTIT Section 3402 that would require an increase in NMTIT Section 3402 withholdings, or willful furnishing of false or fraudulent information, is punishable by a fine of up to $1,000 or up to one year of imprisonment, or both. This penalty is in addition to any other penalty.

As part of the new withholding verification program, the Division of Revenue and Taxation will initiate a review of withholding exemption certificate and would impose the applicable penalty on those found willfully furnishing false or fraudulent information.

Employers are also urged to review their payroll records to ensure that the withholding taxes for NMTIT comply with the exemption claimed on their employees' W4 forms. ***(DoF)***

Company found engaged in recruitment scam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An employer who hired a woman in China in exchange for $5,250 in recruitment fee but did not provide her a job on Saipan has been found to be engaged in a recruitment scam and has been barred from employing alien workers in the CNMI.

Department of Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Herbert D. Soll disqualified LCKG Company Ltd. and its officer and shareholder Wang Hong from further employing nonresident workers in the CNMI.

Soll also ordered LCKG to pay the worker, Liu Guihua, $5,978 for unprovided work, $5,250 in recruiting fee, $411 in transportation expense, for a total of $11,639.

Soll determined that Guihua was credible in her testimony and is believed, in contrast to the unbelievable broad denials of LCKG's manager, Wang Hong.

"The testimony of both parties leads to the conclusion that the complainant was an innocent victim of a recruiting scam and that the respondent had no real position for the complainant to fill," said Soll in his order.

According to Labor records, Guihua was recruited in China to work as a shoe repairer on Saipan. She paid $5,250 as a recruitment fee.

LCKG's manager signed the declaration on the worker's affidavit, on behalf of the company, as the recruiter.

A contract was processed and submitted to Labor. After the contract's approval, Guihua bought an airline ticket and arrived on Saipan on Feb. 8, 2007.

Someone met Guihua at the airport, but no work was provided. She was given evasive answers to her questions about starting work and after two months of unemployment, she filed a complaint with Labor.

In his order, Soll said that, as of the date of the hearing, Dec. 6, 2007, Guihua had not been given work.

Soll said the manager, Wang Hong, gave confused and unconvincing explanations about Guihua's employment.

Soll said Guihua was recruited with the respondent's intention of profiting from her recruitment fee and allowing her to come to the Commonwealth with a mere possibility of finding other work.

"The job described in the documentation presented to Labor was a fiction. Guihua was not a conspirator in the scheme," he pointed out.

Guihua, according to Soll, received no value from the fee of $5,250 that she paid for recruiting services.

The hearing officer said the recruiter, Wang Hong and LCKG Co. Ltd., knew at the time of receiving money that, except for the payment of fees to procure the permit, no real work would be provided.

"Unsuspecting of the fraud being worked upon her, the complainant purchased a one-way airline ticket to Saipan to allow her to begin the job that she was promised by the respondent," Soll said.

Fitial's SOCA set on Apr. 25

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is expected to deliver his third State of the Commonwealth Address before the end of April.

The Senate has adopted a resolution calling for a joint session of both houses of the Legislature to receive Fitial's report on the CNMI's overall situation.

The address is scheduled for April 25, 2008, at 9am, in the House of Representatives chamber in the legislative building on Capital Hill.

On the same day, Washington Rep. Pedro A. Tenorio is expected to report on his official activities and federal matters concerning the Commonwealth.

The Senate resolution, introduced by Senate President Pete P. Reyes, is subject to House concurrence.

The CNMI Constitution requires the governor to report at least annually to the Legislature regarding the affairs of the Commonwealth and new measures that are necessary or desirable for the CNMI.

CNMI statute also directs the Washington representative to report annually to the Legislature on his official activities and federal matters requiring the attention of the government or the CNMI residents. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Certified Parent trainers Mary Jane Limes, Brian Manabat and program coordinator Viola Guerrero join teachers, parents and children for a group photo during the CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Literacy Program's 10th Year Anniversary kick-off activity at the William S. Reyes Elementary School Saturday morning. Eighty students and 10 parents participated on the event, which is sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities in partnership with Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and Public School System.

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Sablan is MVA Employee of the Quarter

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently selected Piding P. Sablan as the recipient of the Employee of the Quarter award.

Sablan is currently a Personnel Specialist for the Personnel Division of MVA. She is known to be a "jack of all trades." As an employee of MVA since June 1997, Sablan has been exposed to all areas of MVA. This includes her experience in accounting, personnel and administration. Sablan has coordinated and assisted with MVA employee activities as well as assisted in greeting visitors for various chartered flights. She also ensures that the office is organized and tidy as well as handles other administrative duties.

Sablan was recognized for her team-player attitude, positive working relationship, reliability and dependability. In November 2007, she was tasked to assume the responsibilities of the Special Assistant to the Managing Director and, at the same time, expected to carry out her regular duties and responsibilities.

"She was very effective and efficient in managing the meetings and administrative functions of the Managing Director's office and arranging the board meetings," says MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Piding Sablan, center, smiles after being recognized as the Employee of the Quarter. Presenting the certificate is Personnel Manager, Polly B. Deleon Guerrero, left, and deputy managing director Judy Torres.

"Taking over another employee's position can be overwhelming, but Ms. Sablan accepted the responsibility without hesitation and this certainly increased the value of her occupational skills," said MVA Personnel manager Polly Deleon Guerrero. "She is truly someone that you can depend on to get the job done!"

MVA offers an incentive for individual motivation toward providing quality service, increasing productivity, job knowledge and skills. The program recognizes outstanding performance and employee contribution towards meeting MVA's goals and objectives. As the employee of the quarter, Sablan received a certificate of recognition and $100. ***(MVA)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SCC's Team Captains' meeting today

The Team Captains' meeting for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2008 Corporate Cultural Challenge will be held today, Feb. 5, 3pm, at the Chamber office. There are still some openings available, so if you haven't signed up your team, do it now! ***(PR)***

Chamber membership meeting tomorrow

This month's Saipan Chamber of Commerce General Membership Meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, Feb. 6, at Palms Resort Saipan (the former Hotel Nikko Saipan). Registration and buffet lunch begins at 11:30am and the meeting will begin at noon.

"We will be in the Theater Hall on the lower level, which is most easily accessed from the parking lot south of the hotel," said Chamber executive director Kyle Calabrese

Members will be charged $15 per person; guests of members, $20; and general public, $25. This month's keynote speaker is the new Board of Education chair, Lucy Blanco-Maratita, who will talk about "Charting the course for the CNMI's public education." ***(PR)***

BETTY TURNS 2 CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 2nd birthday to our beloved daughter, Betty Matson. "We love you very much. God bless you always!" Greetings come from your parents, sister Ciaralyn, grandparents Ted and Betty Matson and FMI Group.

GOP Precinct 1 Club meeting

The GOP Precinct One Club will be conducting a general membership meeting to select three nominees for the GOP Central Committee.

At-large election for six delegates to represent the CNMI at the Republican National Convention on Sept 1-4, 2008, will be made on Feb. 23, 2008, by CNMI Convention.

The precinct club meeting will be conducted on Feb. 8, 2008, Friday, at 5pm, at King's Plaza, Snac&Go Coffee Shop, in San Vicente, across from Joeten Supermarket. Only registered members are allowed to vote. Registration is open for any interested individual for a fee of just $2.

Trails and Parks meeting set

There will be a Trails & Parks meeting on Feb. 7 at 2pm at the Resource Conservation & Development office. The RC&D office is on Beach Road on the first floor of the D.Y. Building with the coral reef banner out front. If it gets too large, the meeting will move next door to the NRCS office conference room.

"I hope to see you there, since anything, we do to improve our environment and ecotourism on this island will benefit everyone," said Ken Kramer, Marianas RC&D coordinator. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of 1978 meeting

A class reunion meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008 at 9am at SNACK 'N GO, King's Plaza Dandan (across Joeten Dandan Building). For information, contact Liz Balajadia at 898-9535/Bernie Igisair at 483-0859/Terry Kisa at 287-5247 or Viola Guerrero at 285-1268. ***(PR)***

WSR February calendar of events

Feb. 5 No classes (Professional Development Days)
Feb. 6 ABE/GED Registration 2:45-4:15pm Room D-5
Feb. 7 Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat)
Feb. 8 WSR Walk-A-Thon (info sent out to parents earlier)
Feb. 9 DYS Parent Dev. Workshop
Feb. 11 Flag ceremony, 8am WSR stage
Feb. 11-24 WSR Read-A-Thon
Feb. 12 STUCO Meeting 2:35pm Room D-5
Feb. 13 Parent Advisory Council meeting, 6pm, Library
Feb. 13 Autism Parent Night, 6pm, WSR Cafeteria
Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
Feb. 14 3rd Quarter Mid-Progress Report
Feb. 15 WSR Family Fun Night 5:30pm WSR Campus
Feb. 16. PSS Statewide Wellness Symposium (By invitation)
Feb. 18 Presidents' Day holiday (no classes)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 05, 2001

NMC gains 6-year accreditation

The Northern Marianas College has gained a new and vital edge against its educational counterparts in the Pacific with its six-year reaffirmation as a fully-accredited community college granted by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The WASC Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges decided to approve NMC's six-year accreditation application, after a thorough review and deliberation of the institution's Self Study and results of the three-day accreditation visit last October 2000.

Use of water in 7 areas halted

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday advised residents of seven areas in Southern Saipan to stop consuming water from Isley and Obyan well fields until official results of jet fuel spillage investigation are released. In compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, CUC officials advised residents of Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, San Jose, Chalan Laulau, As Perdido, and airport area should not consume water from their faucets as a result of the jet fuel leakage incident two weeks ago.

CUC steps up drive vs drug use by employees

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has sounded the alarm against involvement of its employees on use and abuse of illegal substance after a committee report disclosed some workers tested positive for drugs. Based on the Fiscal Year 2000 report submitted by the CUC Board's Personnel Committee to Chair Jesus T. Guerrero, seven utility employees were tested positive for drugs last year, while six others have already resigned.

February 05, 2002

Tourists do rituals on Saipan caves

Japanese tourists are using some caves on Saipan for religious rituals in honor of their ancestors who died on the island in World War II. This was revealed by Dr. Tina de Cruz, wildlife biology supervisor at the Division of Fish and Wildlife, who also said that the practice happens in at least three caves on the island that serve as the habitat for some 3,000 swiftlets, a bird specie that is endemic to the Commonwealth.

Customs director issue festers

It's been eight days since Gov. Juan N. Babauta appointed Frank Taitano to head the CNMI Division of Customs but he has remained mum whether to withdraw or go ahead with the appointment. At the same time, current Customs Director Joe Mafnas said that, after a visit on January 29, Taitano has not visited the division office since and business has resumed its usual course at the agency.

MVA urged to promoted NMI to China

Saipan businessmen yesterday urged the Marianas Visitors Authority to aggressively promote the Northern Marianas to China, in hopes to revive the CNMI's ailing tourism industry. Century Travel's Dave Sablan said the current economic situation in Japan may affect the local tourism industry in the next two years.

February 05, 2003

Spending control measures out soon

The Babauta administration is getting ready to present to the Legislature a string of recommendations envisioned to place the Commonwealth government's finances in order amid the serious cash flow shortage. Gov. Juan N. Babauta disclosed yesterday that the presentation will center on revenue enhancement, expenditure control and other measures to stimulate the local economy.

MCV launches faster Internet connection

In a move it touts as a reinvestment in the CNMI economy, Marianas CableVision is now offering broadband cable Internet access to Saipan, giving local subscribers high-speed access to the information superhighway. MCV general manager Steve Coleman said his company has linked up with Saipan.com to come up with MCV CableNET, which would allow people to download information from the Internet using the cable television line at speeds that would range from seven to 15 times faster than regular dialup service.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

United Micronesia Development Association, Inc. president and chief executive officer Russell K. Snow Jr. delivers his closing remarks during the opening ceremony Friday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

United Micronesia Development Association's chairman of the board Jose R. Lifoifoi gives his welcoming remarks.

Palms Resort ushers in new era in CNMI's hotel industry

More than 150 people graced the opening of the Palms Resort Saipan last Friday at the Hotel Nikko Saipan property in San Roque.

No less than Gov. Benigno R. Fitial led the delegation from the government sector, which also included House Speaker Arnold Palacios, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, and the governor's public information officer, Charles Reyes.

MVA chair Jerry Tan, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Lynn Knight, and officials from the hotel and travel industries also attended the opening ceremony.

On the part of the Palms Resort's new owners, United Micronesia Development Association Inc. president Russell K. Snow, chairman of the board Jose R. Lifoifoi, director of asset management and CEO Hiroyuki Saito, and company secretary/treasurer Winnie Lee were in attendance.

Food was aplenty as two buffet tables were especially set up by Palms Resort, which spanned from end to end of the theater hall. Drinks also flowed freely as the new owners pulled out all the stops to make the hotel's opening truly a grand one. Island music played by a local trio also entertained the crowd. ***(Mark Rabago)***

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial give a toast for the historic occasion.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios greets Bishop Tomas A. Camacho.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Guests enjoy the dinner buffet during the opening ceremony of the Palms Resort Saipan Friday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Bishop Tomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa join United Micronesia Development Association, Inc. president and chief executive officer Russell K. Snow Jr. and chairman of the board Jose R. Lifoifoi during the opening ceremony of the Palms Resort Saipan Friday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

UMDA president and chief executive officer Russell K. Snow Jr. and Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael von Siebenthal.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Rep. Justo Quitugua and other dignitaries grace the event.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Former Gov. Froilan Tenorio, Supreme Court associate justice Alexandro C. Castro and other personalities enjoy the opening night of the Palms Resort Saipan Friday night.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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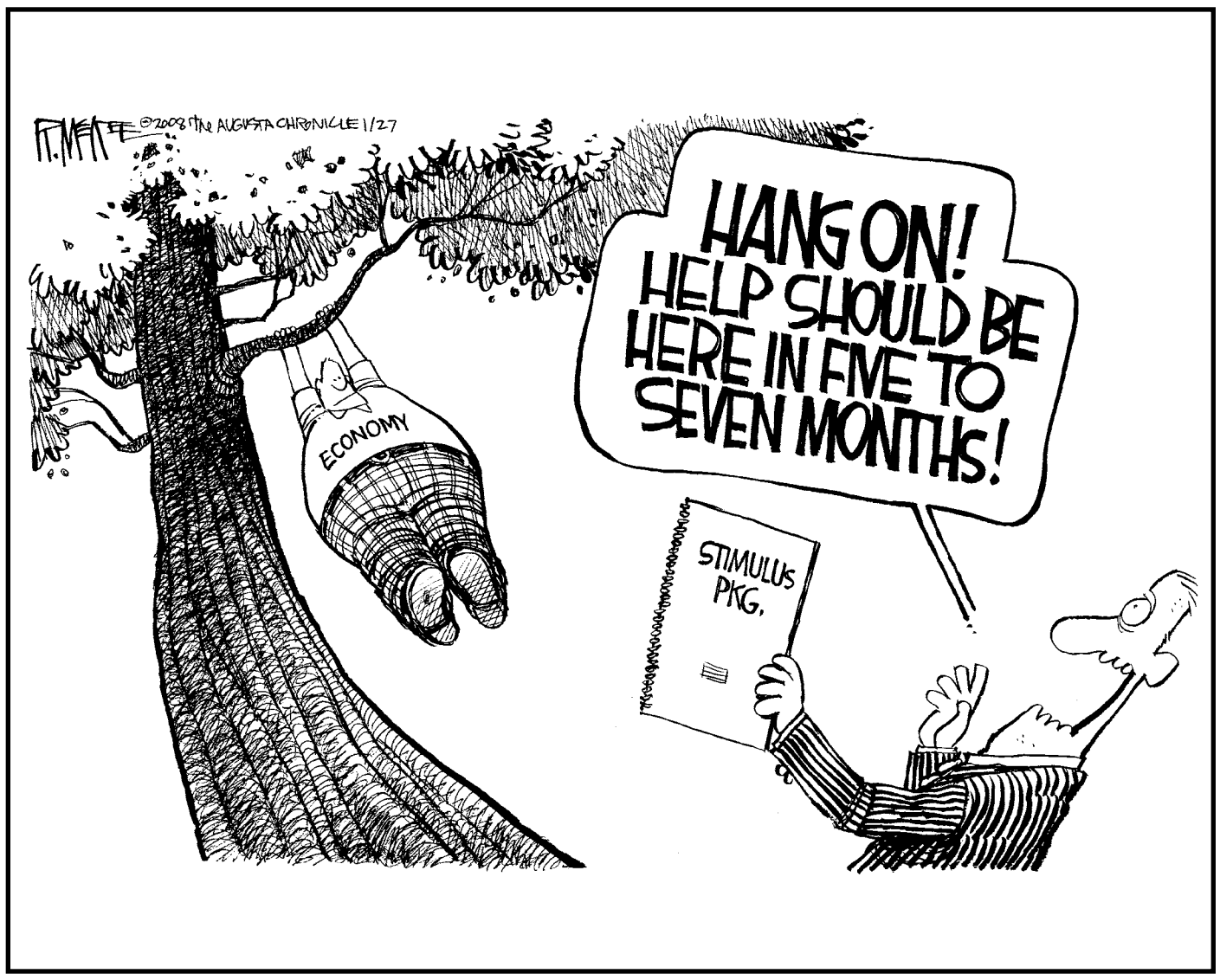

EDITORIAL

Military justice

"One of the Army values is integrity, which is defined as doing what is right, legally and morally. The moral thing to do is dismiss these charges . ... " That recommendation of an Army investigator more than a month ago in the case of 1st Lt. Elizabeth Whiteside was not acted on until after this vulnerable young woman attempted suicide a second time. The delayed reaction offers another troubling glimpse into the military's attitude about mental health issues.

Lt. Whiteside is the 25-year-old Army reservist who faced a court-martial after she suffered a breakdown and tried to commit suicide in Iraq. Post reporters Dana Priest and Anne Hull chronicled her story: how she had a spotless record; how she had been harassed by a superior and how she snapped one night in war-torn Baghdad, pulling a gun on a superior before shooting herself in the stomach. The diagnosis of her psychiatrists that she suffered significant mental illness was brushed aside by her commanders, who saw it as an excuse and pressed ahead with charges. In December a hearing officer sided with the doctors and recommended against a court-martial. To do so, he said, would be "inhumane," but no action was taken. Nor could Lt. Whiteside and her attorneys get any answers. Distraught about her legal limbo, she attempted suicide last Monday, and, with The Post again looking into the circumstances, the charges were finally dropped.

The mishandling of this case is indicative of a military culture dismissive of psychiatric ills as real sickness. Those who seek treatment are too often stigmatized and punished. How else to explain the worry of service members who say they fear being labeled as weak? Think of the message that was sent by the Army's pursuit of Lt. Whiteside and its apparent reluctance to do the right thing.

The case is also a poignant illustration of the dramatic rise of suicides and attempted suicides in the Army. A draft internal study obtained by The Post showed suicides among active-duty soldiers increased nearly 20 percent in 2007, to the highest level since the Army began keeping such records in 1980. The numbers of attempted suicides and self-inflicted injuries also are increasing.

The Army, to its credit, is paying new attention to mental health issues, including hiring more service providers and putting in place new assessments. The Wounded Warrior legislation increases the coordination between the military and the Veterans Affairs Department for treating troops and veterans with mental health issues. The Joshua Omvig Suicide Prevention Bill, which improves the VA's suicide prevention procedures, was signed by President Bush in the fall. None of those efforts will succeed, though, if not accompanied by a change in culture and leadership in the Defense Department. Lt. Whiteside, in a desperate note, put it this way: "I'm very disappointed with the Army."

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Batter up – Butter up

Spring Forward

A couple of people have recently mentioned in separate Letters to the Editor, the possibility of using baseball as a means of increasing tourist flow to the CNMI. Specifically courting more teams from Korea, Japan and possibly other areas where baseball is played competitively to come here for spring training was mentioned. This proposal seems a sterling idea and an achievable goal.

This concept works well in Florida where spring training camps are a big part of the tourist industry. Likewise Arizona and other locations where professional teams and their minor league counterparts also hold sway during the months leading up to the beginning of the major league baseball season.

Huge sums of money flow into the coffers of the private sector and the local and State governments as a result of these training camps and exhibition games. Fanatical fans fly themselves and their families out to Arizona and stay for weeks and sometimes months to have a chance to see the teams practice and play each other in warm up games. The stadiums, affordable to build and much smaller than the big league mega arenas they play in during the regular season, are always filled to capacity.

The tourists come for the same reason the teams come, the weather. It's tough to practice your sidearm screwball when your fingers are frozen. It's also hard to exercise your baseball watching habit from the bleachers of an empty, cold and possibly snow covered stadium. We've got what both parties need: reliable, warm sunny weather. We also have what other spring training camp locations offer: other things to do and see when the teams are not playing and a transportation system flexible enough to bring the fans and the players here and to take them back home when they are ready.

This is a project that would require little in the way of capital infusion, as we could probably get funding assistance to build two or three facilities with assistance from the teams themselves. It would take a concerted effort on the part of MVA, the Administration, local sports authorities and concerned citizens. It would take lots of leg and phone work. That said, it is a project worthy of the time and energy necessary to put it together. If we can attract 20 or 30 thousand fans and a few hundred long-staying team players to our fair isles, the results to the bottom line will be noticeable.

■ ■ ■

Commercial failure

As I sit here penning the above paean to baseball, I'm watching the Super Bowl un-commercial that takes up more time than the game itself does here on Saipan. What entertainment!…vapid, endlessly repeating, third rate music (elevator rap?) backed up by a fascinating slide show of NFL team, errrrr logos, yes motionless, ridiculous logos reiterated ad nauseum. Why aren't the high dollar, extravagantly produced Super Bowl commercials available to be seen here? I'm sure there is a reason, and I'm sure it's inane. Go MCV!

■ ■ ■

Just gotta spend it

I see where the grant funds offered by OIA to our local government, with gooey strings attached to try to blackmail (Too strong a word. Coerce?) a particular behavior, has been given instead to Karidat and will be strewn elsewhere as well. I also notice the strings attached aren't quite as stringy as when offered to the government directly. Either way, the money is still here and circulating. Gov. Fitial did the right thing by not giving in to the micromanagement demands of David Cohen, now the ex-assistant-deputy-under-beneath-below secretary of the out-of-sight backwoods.

Mr. Cohen it seems has resigned, probably in embarrassment at having co-written the CNMI Shafting Documents (aka the U.S. House and Senate takeover bills) along with his trusty cohort, Jim Benedetto, much to the dismay of most of our population.

I've always thought is delightfully ironic that insular, "outside," exterior affairs are administered by, who else (?), the Department of the Interior. Are we happy that they have such an all-encompassing desire to rid U.S. taxpayers of their hard earned loot? I suppose.

I also suppose that David Cohen will do well in his new incarnation. Since UP/Wharton graduates are among the sharpest pencils in the box, I'm sure Mr. Cohen will parley that innate skill along with his now strong connections inside DOI into a profitable and productive career now that he is back in private practice. Bye.

■ ■ ■

Quotes of the week: If it weren't for baseball, many kids wouldn't know what a millionaire looks like.

—Phyllis Diller (1917 -)

Any pitcher who throws at a batter and deliberately tries to hit him is a communist.

—Alvin Dark, former baseball coach (1922 -)

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/

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The plain meaning of H.R. 3079

By HOWARD P. WILLENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Howard P. Willens is the Special Legal Counsel to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

For more than a decade Commonwealth residents have debated the pros and cons of federalization of the CNMI immigration and labor laws. Today this debate is focused on the provisions of H.R. 3079, currently before the U.S. Senate for final approval. Although the debate on the merits of the bill undoubtedly will continue, it is desirable to strive for a common understanding of what the bill means.

The Issue

Recent media reports originating from an unnamed source at the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, plus numerous letters in support of H.R. 3079, have proposed an interpretation of the legislation's transition program that I find to be clearly wrong. The question at issue may be simply stated: Does the transition period under H.R 3079 involve one or two special programs for guest workers in the CNMI?

In Support of the Two Guest Worker Programs Theory

The anonymous Committee staffer (quoted in the *Marianas Variety* of Jan. 30, 2008) and the letter writers contend that there are two separate guest worker programs provided by H.R. 3079 under which employers may hire nonimmigrant foreign workers during the transition period.

First, they state that "current guest workers would be eligible for the new CNMI-only temporary guest worker program." They go on to say that this will give these workers "the chance to remain in the CNMI as long as that program is operating and it will certainly last at least six years beyond the date" of the bill's enactment and "probably longer, given the CNMI's very large dependence on guest workers." (This description is misleading. It fails to acknowledge that during this transition period federal officials are required to reduce annually the number of workers covered by the permit system in order to achieve eventually the goal of zero. It offers small comfort to the 19,000 guest workers in the CNMI to know that a few of them will have the "chance" to be the last to be repatriated.)

Second, they state that "guest workers would be eligible for the non-immigrant worker program under existing federal law on H visas, and allows the CNMI to participate in it without numerical caps." Conceding that the goal of the legislation is to eventually reduce the number of the guest workers under the CNMI-only temporary guest worker to zero, the proponents of the two-programs interpretation state that "guest workers would continue [to] be able to enter the CNMI indefinitely under the existing federal non-immigrant worker program or [sic] H visas."

In Support of Only a Single Guest Worker Program

I find that there is a single transition program defined by H.R. 3079, which imposes a permit system on all employers seeking to use nonimmigrant foreign workers, whether that worker is presently in the CNMI or comes in on an H visa. Furthermore, the law requires reductions in the number of permits on an annual basis to zero by the end of 2013, subject to the granting of an extension. After the transition period ends, nonimmigrant workers could enter the CNMI only with an H visa and the Commonwealth would be subject to the national caps (unlike Guam). Because it would have to compete with all other U.S. jurisdictions for H visas under the national caps (after the transition program ends), the Commonwealth would get few, if any, of these visas.

I find that the two-program theory is unsupportable for these reasons.

First, there is nothing in either the language of H.R. 3079 or its legislative history that refers to two separate guest worker programs during the transition period. All preceding versions of this bill have defined only a single such program to help bridge the gap between the CNMI's current situation and the full application of the federal immigration laws. This is true of the original versions of H.R. 3079 and S. 1634 as introduced in Congress in 2007, as well as S.1052 passes by the Senate in 2000 and S. 507, approved by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in 2001. Each of these bills defined a single special transition program lasting ten years (or possibly longer) during which the number of nonimmigrant guest workers in the Commonwealth would be reduced to zero.

Second, the proponents of two programs infer the existence of the second guest worker program from the exemption from the numerical caps for H visas that H.R. 3079 provides to the CNMI during the transition program. Such an inference is not supportable and the subsection authorizing the exemption does not permit federal officials implementing H.R. 3079 to admit nonimmigrant workers under an H visa who are not covered by the permit system established by the CNMI-only transition program.

1) The language of the exemption provision, subsection 6(b) of H.R. 3079, imposes no duties whatsoever on federal officials implementing the legislation. It provides only that "An alien, if otherwise qualified, may seek admission to Guam or to the Commonwealth during the transition program as a nonimmigrant worker" under the H visa programs "without counting against the numerical limitations" contained in the Immigration and Nationality Act.

> "The fact is, H.R. 3079 mandates the reduction of guest workers in the [CNMI] to zero within five years, or perhaps longer if an extension is granted. There are no exceptions, and there is no alternative for guest workers or CNMI employers, who will have to compete for the permits remaining after the required annual reductions."

2) The exemption from the national caps was necessary to permit the federal officials to issue one or more H visas to meet particular employment requests in the Commonwealth without the need to take such visas away from other jurisdictions in the United States. Such exemptions were contained in all previous bills addressing the CNMI situation, with no reference whatsoever in any of these bills to a "second" guest worker program.

3) In earlier versions of the law, the subsection dealing with the exemption from the caps on H visas was contained within the description of the CNMI-only guest worker program. It was almost certainly moved out from this description once it was decided to extend the exemption to Guam as well as the CNMI. It would have been inappropriate, and perhaps misleading, to have this provision relating to Guam contained in the subsection dealing with the CNMI-only guest worker program.

4) The subsections dealing with the CNMI-only guest worker program (with its permit system and objective of annual reductions) indicate that their provisions apply to workers entering the CNMI on H visas, as well as those workers currently in the CNMI who would be entitled to a nonimmigrant classification.

■ Subsection 6(d) begins with this statement: "An alien who is seeking to enter the Commonwealth as a nonimmigrant worker may be admitted to perform work during the transition period subject to the following requirements [of the permit system]"

■ Subsection 6(d)(2) states: "No alien shall be granted nonimmigrant classification or a visa under this subsection unless the permit requirements established under this paragraph have been met."

■ Subsection 6(d)(3) provides that the Secretaries of Homeland Security and State shall establish the conditions for admitting such nonimmigrant workers during the transition period and states: "An alien admitted to the Commonwealth on the basis of such a visa shall be permitted to engage in employment only as authorized pursuant to the transition program."

Third, if the drafters of H.R. 3079 as approved by the House of Representatives had intended to exempt the workers coming in under the H visa program from the CNMI-only transition program, they knew how to do so. In the version of H.R. 3079 that was the subject of hearings in August 2007, there was a provision for the use of employment-based immigrant visas, if necessary, to supplement the available CNMI workforce. Before such visas could be used, the Secretary of Labor under Subsection 6(c)(3) of the bill had to conclude "that exceptional circumstances exist with respect to the inability of employers in the Commonwealth to obtain sufficient work-authorized labor, in addition to the Commonwealth-only transitional workers authorized under section 103(d)…." (emphasis supplied) As the United States Supreme Court has observed, "where Congress includes particular language in one section of a statute but omits it in another…, it is generally presumed that Congress acts intentionally and purposely in the disparate inclusion or exclusion." *Keene Corp. v. United States*, 508 U.S. 200, 208 (1993) (quoting *Russello v. United States*, 464 U.S.16, 23 (1983)).

Fourth, the contention that the bill provides for two, very different, guest worker programs during the transition period simply makes no sense. In the first place, why would any guest worker choose to participate in the so-called temporary program, with the chance of having the available permits being reduced to zero, if such an easy and non-threatening alternative were available under this hypothetical H visa program. Secondly, the argument assumes that the very same federal officials required to apply the harsh provisions of the CNMI-only guest worker program would conclude that Congress intended them to admit all H visa applicants seeking to work in the CNMI without regard to the permit system imposed by the CNMI-only program. This proposition cannot withstand rational analysis. .

The fact is, H.R. 3079 mandates the reduction of guest workers in the Commonwealth to zero within five years, or perhaps longer if an extension is granted. There are no exceptions, and there is no alternative for guest workers or CNMI employers, who will have to compete for the permits remaining after the required annual reductions. Those who drafted the bill intended this result. There is absolutely no legislative history indicating anything to the contrary. The Congressional drafters of this bill (and the Senate bill) and their collaborators at the Department of the Interior declined to provide to the Commonwealth any draft of the proposed bill that they ultimately sent to the House of Representatives for passage. If we had been given this opportunity, we could easily have pointed out these and other deficiencies in the proposed legislation and the inevitable and serious adverse effects on the Commonwealth and its guest workers that will result from its enactment.

Letter to the Editor

Lack of unity, lack of God?

Unity literally defined means the state of being united or joined in whole, harmony or agreement between people or groups, or the state of forming a complete and pleasing whole. We can all assert that if a family is divided, it cannot stand. If a church is divided, it cannot stand. If the people are divided, it cannot stand. If the government is divided, it cannot stand. A government consists of people made of families. I am the government, you are the government, we are the government! United families lead to united governments. We can be the change we want Saipan to be. It starts with you, with me and our family.

The family head starts with husband and wife. They are the leaders and models for the children and generations to come. Our values and opinions can often be lead by what we hear or see in our family. A child usually replays what a parent displays. What have we displayed in the past and what do we continue to display today? As much as we learn from history, which is to not repeat the mistakes of the past, should we also not continue to display the miserly replays of the past? If you read the research, a child who watches violence on TV replays acts of violence. What do you suppose would happen if we displayed acts of kindness, goodness, righteousness, justice, truth, honor and/or love? I suppose we'd have an adult who will grow to have such virtues. I also suppose we'd have a majority of leaders who have dignity, one who labors on the state of being honored and respected for they are a person who says what is right and does what they say because it is right.

Because the cycle of family development never ends, it is never too late. The family must stand together and unite. I'm assuming that our problems started with the family union. If our family were at a state of forming a complete and pleasing whole, we would not have families divided in voting for government leaders now at odds.

I charge you: Families, unite! Let's set the example and be the change that we want to see in our islands and around the world. None of our own attempts and efforts can save us without the help of God, and neither can God's help be beneficial to us without our own wish for it.

Jeaniffer H. Cubangbang
Honolulu, HI

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲80° ▼74°	▲82° ▼75°	▲81° ▼76°	▲82° ▼76°	▲82° ▼75°

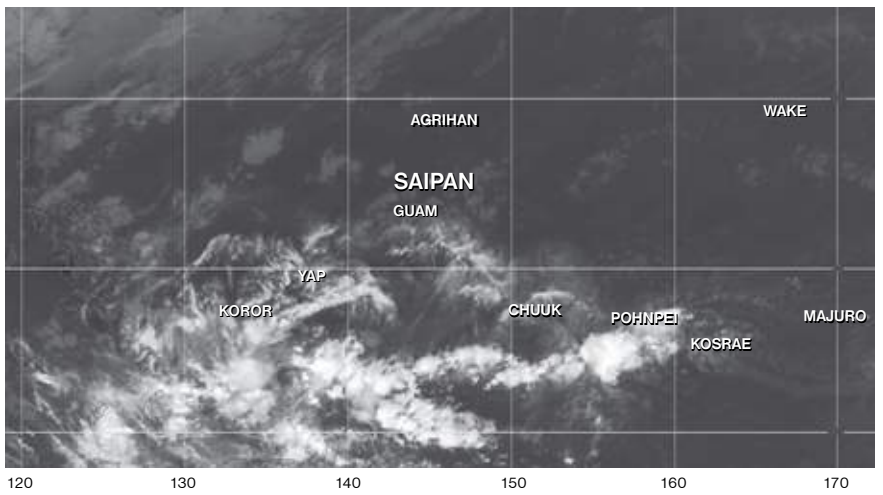
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲83	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲32	▼17
Hong Kong	Showers	▲57	▼52
Honolulu	Showers	▲77	▼70
London	Rain	▲52	▼43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲65	▼45
Manila	Cloudy	▲88	▼74
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲79	▼59
Miami	Sunny	▲82	▼70
New York	Rain	▲54	▼51
Osaka	Cloudy	▲39	▼28
Paris	Rain	▲47	▼44
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲42	▼22
Rome	Cloudy	▲52	▼36
Salem	Rain	▲45	▼37
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼45
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲28	▼ 9
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲43	▼29
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲64	▼52

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, FEB. 4, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front reaches southwestward from 25N139E to 22N130E and beyond. Extensive cloudiness and moderate rain are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of the boundary. A shear line extends southwestward from 25N148E to south of Iwo Jima near 22N142E to 16N130E and beyond. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are seen along and up to 150 miles northwest of this feature. A weak trade-wind disturbance is generating isolated to scattered showers over Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan within 70 miles of a line from 12N140E to 14N144E to 15N149E. The combination of trade convergence and upper-level diffluence is producing numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Palau and Yap within 130 miles of a line from 2N130E to 4N139E to EQ146E. Isolated to scattered showers are also occurring just south of Koror within 40 miles of a line from 7N130E to 6N134E to 7N136E. Trade-wind convergence is creating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from southwest of Chuuk to Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 4n144e to 3n151e to 7n160e. Scattered showers are also forming across a large area over Kosrae and the Marshall Islands to the dateline between 2N and 10N from 161E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:39AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
07:56AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
01:02PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
05:46PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45AM	6:17PM
Wednesday	6:45AM	6:17PM
Thursday	6:45AM	6:17PM
Friday	6:45AM	6:18PM
Saturday	6:44AM	6:18PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	05:07AM	04:32PM
Wednesday	05:55AM	05:28PM
Thursday	06:39AM	06:24PM
Friday	07:21AM	07:18PM
Saturday	08:00AM	08:12PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contribution are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 2, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6

Saipan-Beijing

CA 988	3:15am	7:00am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Shanghai-Saipan

MU 589	8:05pm	3:00am+1	1,5

Beijing-Saipan

CA 987	6:05pm	1:55am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

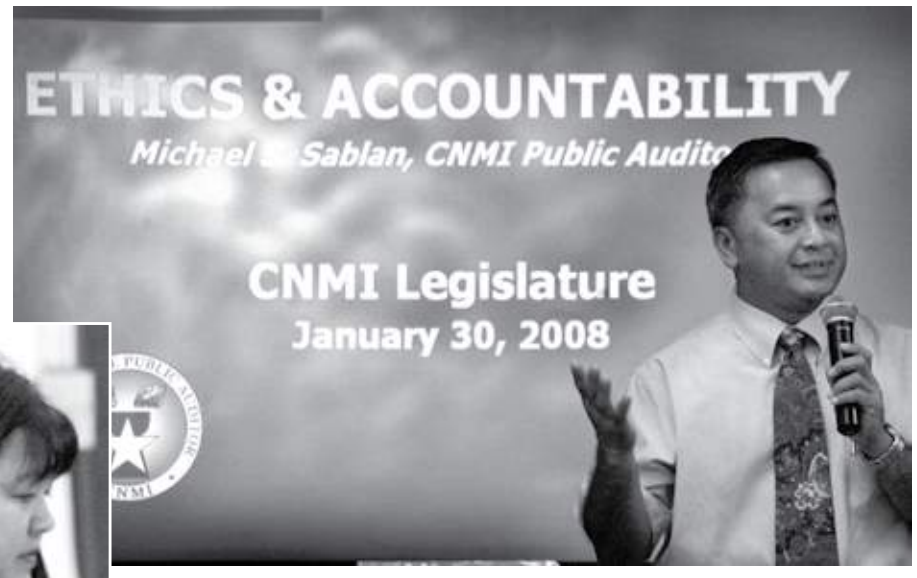
Island Snapshots

LABOR TALKS
Legal counsel to the administration Deanne Siemer, Labor director Barry Hirshbein, former representative Cinta Kaipat (author of P.L. 15-108), and other Department of Labor officials talk to members of HANMI, Saipan Chamber of Commerce and other employers during a presentation on the new labor law regulations at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Friday morning.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

HANMI chairwoman Lynn A. Knight, Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Kyle Calabrese and Chamber president James T. Arenovski listen to Labor director Barry Hirshbein during a presentation on the new labor law regulations at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Friday morning.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Labor director Barry Hirshbein shows a document while Legal counsel to the administration Deanne Siemer and former representative Cinta Kaipat look on, during a presentation on the new labor law regulations to members of HANMI, Saipan Chamber of Commerce and other employers at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Friday morning.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

SPELL ME THIS...
William S. Reyes Elementary School's Spelling Bee champion Mobtasim Alam, 11, in action during Tuesday's final competition at the school campus. Alam will represent WSR at the regional spelling bee competition in Guam in March.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



OPA BRIEFING
CNMI Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan gestures during his presentation on Ethics and Accountability to members of the 16th Legislature and Legislative bureau staff at the House chamber on Capital Hill Wednesday morning.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

William S. Reyes Elementary School's Spelling Bee first runner-up Toshio Takayama spells a word during Tuesday's final competition at the school campus.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

William S. Reyes Elementary School's Spelling Bee second runner-up Mikhail Alcantara spells a word during Tuesday's final competition at the school campus.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

STATE OF NMC
Northern Marianas College chief financial officer Raaj Kurapati talks about the current financial situation of the college with NMC president Carmen Fernandez and NMC official Daisy Bier-Villagomez during a budget hearing with members of the CNMI Senate and Legislature at the House chamber on Capital Hill Friday afternoon.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

SERVICE OUTLET
The SaipanCell Communications service outlet at MITA Travel Beach Road Garapan during its grand opening Friday morning.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Customers troop to the SaipanCell Communications service outlet in Garapan during its grand opening Friday morning.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

BIRTHDAY GIRL
Happy birthday to Lovelynn Villamor, who turned 3 last Jan. 27. Joining the celebrant is her parent Gigi and Rey as they party at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OPENING RITES
Department of Corrections and Police officers offer a salute during the opening ceremony for the state-of-the-art adult prison facility Saturday morning. The new building is officially called the Vicente Taman Seman Memorial Building.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

SISTER CITIES
Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and Ahmedabad Mayor Amit Shah show the signed Sister Cities Agreement between the City of Ahmedabad, India and Saipan, CNMI during the historic signing ceremony at the World Resort Saipan Saturday night. Also in photo are Universal Company's Dinesh Kumar Patel and event coordinator Tony Glad.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

KOREAN INVESTORS
Visiting Korean investors have their picture taken with school principal Jonas Barcinas at Dandan Elementary School during a recent visit to the island. These investors, mostly from the educational field, also visited the Ladera International School of Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INDUCTION OF OFFICERS
Marianas DX Amateur Radio Club pose for a group photo with their special guest speakers during the 2008 induction of officers held last Jan. 25 at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TASTE TEST
Almost a hundred farmers and community members participate in the tasting and testing of different cultivars of taro and sweet potato during Wednesday morning's Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Service field day at the newly established Agriculture Experiment Station in As Perdido.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

NEW OWNERS
Japan Airlines International Co., Ltd.-vice president and associated business president Tetsuya Baba and United Micronesia Development Association's chairman of the board Jose R. Lifoifoi sign the documents formalizing the transfer of ownership of Hotel Nikko Saipan, Inc. to UMDA at the UMDA's corporate office at the Marina Heights Business Park in Puerto Rico Thursday morning last week. Also in photo is UMDA's president and CEO Russell K. Snow, Jr.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

FAMILIARIZATION TOUR
A media familiarization group from the Sendai region of Japan have their picture taken on Rota while exploring the beautiful island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THREAT AND RISK ASSESSMENT
Participants from different government agencies listen to Texas Engineering Extension Service associate training specialist John Sisario during the Threat & Risk Assessment Course at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio Monday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

KODAK MOMENT
Tourists gather for a souvenir picture on Micro Beach. It is considered as one of the finest white sand beaches in Saipan and a popular destination for windsurfers, snorkelers, sunbathers and picnickers.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Business

Google: Microsoft deal bad for Internet

AP
A Yahoo worker walks into Yahoo headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif. in this Jan. 29, 2008 file photo.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc. raised the specter of Microsoft Corp. using its proposed $42 billion acquisition of Yahoo Inc. to gain illegal control over the Internet, underscoring the online search leader's queasiness about its two biggest rivals teaming up.

The critical remarks, posted online Sunday by Google's top lawyer, represented the Mountain View-based company's first public reaction to Microsoft's unsolicited bid for Yahoo since the offer was announced Friday.

"Microsoft's hostile bid for Yahoo raises troubling questions," David Drummond, Google's chief legal officer, wrote. "This is about more than simply a financial transaction, one company taking over another. It's about preserving the underlying principles of the Internet: openness and innovation."

Google's opposition isn't a surprise, given that Microsoft views Yahoo as a crucial weapon in its battle to gain ground on Google in the Internet's booming search and advertising markets.

Redmond, Wash.-based Microsoft has been trying to depict a Yahoo takeover as a boon for both advertisers and consumers because the two companies together would be able to compete against Google more effectively.

But Google is painting a starkly different picture, asserting that Microsoft will be able to stifle innovation and leverage its dominating Windows operating system to set up personal computers so consumers are automatically steered to online services, such as e-mail and instant messaging, controlled by the world's largest software maker.

In a move that illustrates just how badly Google wants to torpedo the deal, Google Chief Executive Officer Eric Schmidt called Yahoo CEO Jerry Yang Friday to offer his help in repelling Microsoft, according to a report Sunday on The Wall Street Journal's Web site, which cited anonymous people familiar with the matter.

Will more jobless benefits aid struggling US economy?

WASHINGTON (AP)—For a bipartisan majority of senators, providing three months or six months of extra unemployment checks to more than 1 million jobless people is a better way to dig the economy out of a recession than just printing tax rebate checks.

Some economists agree, and undoubtedly, so do the nearly 1.3 million unemployed workers who face losing an average $282 a week in benefits before June.

But there is strong opposition leading up to a Senate vote in the week ahead on whether to add an extension of jobless benefits to a $161 billion House-passed combination of tax rebates and business tax cuts.

Consider Deborah El, a 64-year-old diabetic who lives in Pittsburgh. She will exhaust her 26 weeks of regular benefits this month after being laid off from her job as a program coordinator at a nonprofit literacy agency.

El is taking care of her 26-year-old disabled daughter, Orissa, while also looking for a job and trying to find a new place to live.

"I don't know what I'm going to do. I'm really scared," she said. "I've never been like this before. I've always been employed, I've always worked. I went back to school a few years ago and got a master's degree, but it doesn't mean anything."

Postal agencies respond to mail decline

NEW YORK (AP)—Marty Sellers used to need about a hundred postage stamps every three months. These days, he can stretch that supply to last a year.

Sellers, 40, now pays most bills online and receives financial statements electronically. The owner of Sellers Photo in Huntsville, Ala., he also has cut down on mailing clients CDs, transferring images over the Internet instead.

"Even things like a birthday card, I will just send a happy birthday e-mail," he said.

Because many people around the world are like Sellers, the U.S. Postal Service and its counterparts in other countries are tapping technology to cut costs and expand into electronic services—including services designed to attract more "junk" mail.

In the United States, first-class mail volume has dropped 7 percent since 2001—an average of 1.3 billion fewer letters, postcards and bills each year. A 15 percent boost in bulk advertising and other discounted mailings has so far offset only some of the loss in revenue.

Many postal agencies are having to serve more households because their nations' populations are growing but are getting less mail to deliver to each, said Dean Pope, general manager of business development at Canada Post.

"In order to sustain business in that formula, you have to find new services and products and find new revenue growth opportunities," he said.

More data out on housing, spending

NEW YORK (AP)—The stock market has been on the upswing, but few investors are relaxing just yet. This week's data on housing, retailers and labor costs will give Wall Street an idea of whether the economy is weakening or inflation is accelerating - or both.

Wall Street had a case of the winter blues in January, and understandably. With banks reporting huge losses, uncertainty brewing about whether the economy is in recession, and Americans struggling to keep up with their debt payments, there was nowhere to go but down. The Standard & Poor's 500 index recorded its worst January since 1990.

But the stock market has bounced back - last week, the Dow Jones industrial average jumped 4.39 percent, the Standard & Poor's 500 index added 3.75 percent, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 4.87 percent.

The Dow remains 10 percent below the record close of 14,164.53 it reached on Oct. 9, but has recovered nearly 10 percent from the 15-month lows it hit in January.

There were many factors that helped buoy the market last week. The Federal Reserve met the market's hopes for another big rate cut by slashing key rates a half-point. Banks and regulators indicated they are working to help out the distressed companies that insure mortgage-backed bonds. And Microsoft Corp.'s bid for the struggling Internet provider Yahoo Inc. reassured Wall Street that although the credit markets are tight, deals are being pitched.

Nation

Bush proposes 1st $3 trillion budget

WASHINGTON (AP) -- In the nation's first-ever $3 trillion budget, President Bush seeks to seal his legacy of promoting a strong defense to fight terrorism and tax cuts to spur the economy. Democrats, who control Congress, are pledging fierce opposition to Bush's final spending plan - perhaps even until the next president takes office.

The 2009 spending plan sent to Congress on Monday will project huge budget deficits, around $400 billion for this year and next and more than double the 2007 deficit of $163 billion. But even those estimates could prove too low given the rapidly weakening economy and the total costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which Bush does not include in his request for the budget year beginning Oct. 1.

Last year, when Democrats were newly in the majority, there were drawn-out veto struggles. This year's fights could be worse because it is an election year.

Bush

As in past years, Bush's biggest proposed increases are in national security. Defense spending is projected to rise by about 7 percent to $515 billion and homeland security money by almost 11 percent, with a big gain for border security. Details on the budget were obtained through interviews with administration officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity until the budget's release.

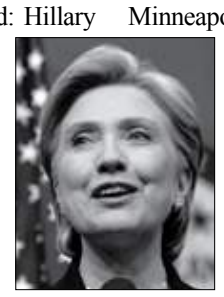
The bulk of government programs for which Congress sets annual spending levels would remain essentially frozen at current levels. The president does shower extra money on some favored programs in education and to bolster inspections of imported food.

Bush's spending proposal would achieve sizable savings by slowing the growth in the major health programs - Medicare for retirees and Medicaid for the poor. There the president will be asking for almost $200 billion in cuts over five years, about three times the savings he proposed last year.

All eyes on Clinton as big vote nears

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The top presidential candidates and their big-name supporters campaigned from coast to coast Sunday, but one contender seemed atop everyone's mind: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Republicans John McCain and Mitt Romney contrasted themselves, and each other, with Clinton as though she were the nominee. Her Democratic rival, Barack Obama, played along to a degree, saying Clinton is so polarizing that he is their party's better bet.


Clinton

Obama

Rather than diverting the less-than-flattering attention, Clinton embraced it.

"I've been taking the incoming fire from Republicans for about 16 years now, and I'm still here, because I have been vetted, I have been tested," she said in a TV interview before campaigning in Missouri and Minneapolis.

"There's unlikely to be any new surprises," Clinton added, implying the same cannot be said of Obama, who has been in Congress three years.

Her confidence notwithstanding, polls showed Obama narrowing the lead that Clinton has enjoyed among Democrats nationwide, even as McCain appeared to be pulling away from Romney.

With 24 states holding presidential contests Tuesday, Sunday was an intense day of campaigning and advertising, making it all the more remarkable that one figure managed to dominate so much of the talk and speculation.

For years the New York senator and former first lady has been an object of fascination, mystery and sometimes scorn by Americans, few of whom seem neutral toward her. She is the Democrat conservatives most love to hate, and McCain and Romney campaigned against her Sunday as if in a proxy battle against one another.

Md. boy, 15, charged with killing family

COCKEYSVILLE, Md. (AP)—A 15-year-old boy fatally shot his parents and two younger brothers as they slept, then spent more than 12 hours with friends before returning home and calling 911 to report that his father was dead, police said Sunday.

Police went to their suburban Baltimore home and later charged Nicholas Waggoner Browning after he admitted to the slayings, Baltimore County Police spokesman Bill Toohey said.

Browning was charged as an adult with four counts of first-degree murder in the slayings of his father, John Browning, 45; his mother Tamara, 44; and his brothers Gregory, 13, and Benjamin, 11.

The teen had not been getting along with his father, police said. On Friday night, he went into the house after other family members had gone to sleep and shot each of them. His father's handgun had been in the house, police said.

After the slayings, he threw the handgun into bushes near the house, police said. The gun was recovered, Toohey said.

When the friends took him back to his house at 5 p.m. Saturday, Browning went into the house and came back out to say that his father was dead.

Browning called 911, telling the dispatcher that a "45-year-old male was lying on the couch with blood coming out of his nose. He was not breathing," according to charging documents. Officers were sent on a "call of a cardiac arrest."

Gunman sought in deadly store shooting

TINLEY PARK, Ill. (AP)—As police continued their search Sunday for a gunman who killed five women at a suburban Chicago strip mall a day earlier, passers-by erected a memorial of five white crosses and flowers to the victims. Police released few details about the Saturday shooting at the Lane Bryant clothing store. Investigators believed it was a robbery that was interrupted, but declined to say how it was stopped or who called 911. The department would not confirm media reports Sunday that a sixth woman was shot and survived the attack at strip mall southwest of downtown Chicago.

The Chicago Sun-Times and Chicago Tribune, citing unnamed sources, said in stories posted on their Web sites that the survivor was treated at a hospital. The Sun-Times reported that the woman was released Sunday afternoon.

St. James Hospital spokeswoman Sherry Sissac confirmed that the facility received one female shooting victim Saturday but declined to give further information.

Asia

Suicide blast in Pakistan kills 6

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber on a motorbike rammed into a minibus carrying security personnel, detonating a blast Monday that killed at least six people in the Pakistani garrison city of Rawalpindi, police said.

The bus was destroyed and several other people were wounded in the explosion on a road running through a bazaar near the offices of the army's National Logistics Cell, said Bisharat Abbasi, the local police chief.

Army spokesmen were not immediately available for comment, and it wasn't clear which branch of the armed forces the passengers were from. The logistics cell builds roads, bridges and provides other infastructure services.

The blast blew the roof off the bus and also damaged several nearby vehicles. Police and soldiers cordoned off the area and erected a screen around the site.

In recent months there have been a series of suicide bombings in Rawalpindi, a city where the army has its headquarters, about seven miles from the capital, Islamabad. President Pervez Musharraf also stays in the city.

On Dec. 27, opposition leader Benazir Bhutto and about 20 others died in a gun and bomb attack in Rawalpindi.

Prior to that, a series of attacks hit security forces and employees of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency, including two suicide bombings against a bus of ISI employees and an army checkpoint on Nov. 24 that killed up to 35 people.

Five killed in Jolo clash

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Soldiers clashed with al-Qaida-linked militants Monday in the southern Philippines, killing three rebels and two soldiers just days after a top Indonesian terror suspect eluded a military raid on a nearby island, an official said.

The fighting took place in Maimbung township on the western coast of Jolo island, a stronghold of the Islamic extremist Abu Sayyaf group about 950 kilometers (590 miles) south of Manila, while troops were searching for a local businesswoman an kidnapped by militants last week, regional military spokesman Maj. Eugene Batara said.

The bodies of three rebels and an M-16 rifle were recovered from the scene of the clash, Batara said. Two soldiers were killed and five others wounded and transferred to an army hospital, he added.

Batara said troops were on a mission to rescue Rosalie Lao, 45, a Jolo resident who was abducted by the rebels Jan. 28. It was not clear if she was held by the same group of rebels who clashed with troops.

Last week, troops on nearby Tawi-Tawi island shot and killed an Abu Sayyaf commander, Wahab Upao, but missed the Indonesian terror suspect, Dulmatin, one of several operatives of the Indonesian-based militant group Jemaah Islamiyah believed to be hiding in the southern Philippines

Sri Lanka suicide bombing kills 11

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A female suicide bomber attacked the main railway station in the Sri Lankan capital Sunday, killing at least 11 people and wounding 92 others, officials said.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said the bomber got down from a train and then blew herself up.

"I was near my counter and I heard a big blast. When I looked behind I saw a policeman bleeding," said Ravindra Pinto, a ticket inspector at the station.

"As I took him and rushed out, I saw many men and women on the ground," said Pinto, who was not wounded in the blast.

Nanayakkara said 11 people were killed and 92 others wounded in the attack, which he blamed on the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels.

Telephone calls to rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan's office were not answered Sunday.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan opposition to step up campaign

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Benazir Bhutto's party plans to launch a vigorous campaign for Pakistan's Feb. 18 parliamentary election once the 40-day mourning period for the slain opposition leader ends this week, her supporters said Sunday. Campaigning for the crucial election all but ceased after Bhutto was killed in a Dec. 27 suicide attack during a rally in the northern city of Rawalpindi, promoting authorities to postpone the balloting for six weeks. U.S. and Pakistani officials blamed the assassination on Pakistani militants with links to al-Qaida, and the government repeatedly urged parties to avoid big public rallies because the extremists were believed to be planning more attacks.

Bhutto autobiography details threats

LONDON (AP)—In an autobiography being published after her assassination, Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said she was warned that four suicide bomber squads would try to kill her, one led by Osama bin Laden's 16-year-old son. The former Pakistan prime minister - who was killed in Rawalpindi in December while campaigning for elections - wrote that Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf and a "foreign Muslim government" had informed her these squads were planning her murder, according to excerpts of the book, which is to be published on Feb. 12. "I was told by both the Musharraf regime and the foreign Muslim government that four suicide bomber squads would attempt to kill me," Bhutto said in the book, "Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy & the West."

Insecticide found on Chinese dumplings

TOKYO (AP)—Investigators found insecticide on the outside of six bags of Chinese-made dumplings in Japan after separate dumplings made by the same company sickened 10 people there, police said Sunday. The police did not speculate on whether the dumplings could have been tampered with. Officials said Japanese authorities were recalling millions of bags of dumplings and other foods made by Tianyang Food Processing Ltd., the Chinese company that Japanese officials implicated in the earlier incidents. A day earlier, China's product safety agency announced that tests on the ingredients of Tianyang dumplings—from the same batch sent to Japan—found none of the insecticide cited by Japanese authorities.

Thai PM to take defense job

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's new prime minister said Sunday he will also become the defense minister in a soon-to-be unveiled Cabinet to deter the military from staging a coup against his government. The Cabinet, to be announced in the coming days, is expected to be stocked with close advisers, friends and relatives of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was toppled in a 2006 military coup. The military, which relinquished power after guiding the country for more than a year, is displeased with the election victory of new Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej, who has openly announced that he is Thaksin's proxy.

World

US accidentally kills nine civilians in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. military said Monday that it accidentally killed nine Iraqi civilians during an operation targeting al-Qaida in Iraq south of Baghdad.

The civilians were killed Saturday near Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of the Iraqi capital, U.S. Navy Lt. Patrick Evans told The Associated Press. Three more civilians were wounded and taken to U.S. military hospitals nearby, he said.

The incident and the events surrounding it are under investigation, Evans said.

The killings occurred as U.S. forces pursued suspected al-Qaida in Iraq militants in the area. Shortly after the incident, American officers met with a Muslim sheik representing citizens in the area, he said.

"We offer our condolences to the families of those who were killed in this incident, and we mourn the loss of innocent civilian life," Evans said in a statement e-mailed to the AP.

Fighting rages in Chadian capital

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Tanks rolled through Chad's capital on Sunday, turning the streets into a battle zone between the government and rebels littered with bodies. Fighting also raged in an area where some 420,000 refugees live near the border with Darfur.

Chad and its former colonizer, France, accused Sudan of masterminding the coup attempt in the oil-rich Central African nation. Sudan has repeatedly denied any involvement in the fighting.

Hundreds of rebels penetrated the capital of Chad on Saturday. The violence has endangered a $300 million global aid operation supporting millions of people in Chad, a country about three times the size of California. It also has delayed the deployment of a European Union peacekeeping mission to both Chad and neighboring Central African Republic.

France accused Sudan of wanting to crush President Idriss Deby's regime ahead of the arrival of the EU force, which is to operate along the volatile border with Darfur.

Footage claims to solve Aruba mystery

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Hidden camera footage broadcast in the Netherlands on Sunday showed Dutch student Joran Van der Sloot saying he was with Natalee Holloway when she collapsed on a beach in Aruba. He said he believed she was dead and asked a friend to dump her body in the sea.

Holloway

"She'll never be found," he said.

A series of conversations between Van der Sloot and a man he believed to be his friend were recorded in a Range Rover that had been rigged with three hidden cameras by Peter R. de Vries, a Dutch television crime reporter. They were shown on Dutch television.

Last week, Van der Sloot said he was lying in those conversations and denied that he had anything to do with the Alabama teenager's disappearance.

Holloway, 18, vanished in May 2005 just before she was due to fly home to Alabama, at the end of her high school graduation trip to the Caribbean island. No trace of her has been found. The mystery of her disappearance has frustrated authorities and garnered wide attention on television and in tabloid newspapers in Europe and the United States.

CARNIVAL PARADE AP

Dancers from Salgueiro samba school perform during a carnival parade at the Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro, Monday, Feb. 4, 2008. Brazilian beauties wearing only sequins led carnival parades lasting until dawn Sunday as second-division samba groups used a kaleidoscope of colorful dancers and floats to launch the biggest part of Rio's five-day bash.

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt-Gaza border resealed

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Egyptian police sealed Gaza's border with huge metal spikes and shipping containers Sunday, restoring a tight blockade after a breach that allowed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to cross freely for 12 days. Gaza's Hamas rulers are demanding new border arrangements that would give it a say in administration. Gaza residents settled back into their dreary closure routine after joyous days of freedom and shopping that flooded the territory with sheep, smoked herring and fuel from Egypt.

Kenya opposition wants AU peacekeepers

BONDO, Kenya (AP)—Kenya's opposition leader on Sunday called for international peacekeepers to help restore calm in a country once considered one of the most stable on the continent, as weeks of violence linked to the disputed presidential election gathered frightening momentum. In western Kenya, the epicenter of some of the worst bloodshed since the Dec. 27 vote, gangs with machetes and bows and arrows faced off and black smoke billowed from torched homes. More than 800 people have died and 300,000 have been forced from their homes since the election, which foreign and local observers say was rigged.

Overdrive

2008 MAZDA RX-8
A nice winter ride

THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2008 Mazda RX-8 sports car has coupe-roadster styling and sedan pretensions. Its small rear-access doors and two rear seats are a nice gimmick but only that.

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Little things are important. Consider the matter of tires and my subject car, the 2008 Mazda RX-8 sports coupe that really isn't a coupe, because it has four doors and seats for four people.

I and my associate, Ria Manglapus, didn't want it. Allow us to explain:

The car came in January. That meant the possibility of snow and ice. We don't like driving sports cars in such weather. Too many of them come with tires whose tread is so close to the rims that you can barely tell where one ends and the other begins.

Those vertically thin, wide-track tires are great for running around dry, smooth racetracks. They are wonderful for high-speed driving on dry, well-maintained expressways that are relatively free of traffic. They are lousy for winter driving.

If you want proof, just wait for the next snowstorm. Then, climb into an all-wheel-drive vehicle equipped with proper winter tires and carefully motor along winter-bound roads counting the high-end, high-performance sports cars stuck in the snow or sidelined by ice.

Owners of those cars spent big bucks for horsepower, luxury and image. But they gave scant attention to those four little black things that connect all that pomp and circumstance to the road—the tires. So, they wound up inconvenienced and looking silly, calling a tow truck to haul their high-performance hardware to safety.

Ria and I didn't want that embarrassment. But we were put at ease by a decision Mazda made before shipping the RX-8. The company equipped the car with Bridgestone Blizzak Performance tires, specifically Blizzak LM-25 winter rubber, 18-inch diameter.

Caveat: You can still slip, slide on ice, crash, be injured, die or get stuck in snow with Blizzak tires. Technology is no substitute for common sense. But you are substantially less likely to wind up upended in winter driving with Blizzaks or similar winter tires from Goodyear, Michelin or Pirelli.

Those tires employ special rubber compounds and tread designs to improve winter traction for cars that usually do their best work on dry roads. They are not "all-season radials," per se.

Here, we would like to urge all tire marketers to stop misleading consumers by labeling tires "all season." In truth, there is no such thing. Anyone doubting that should try driving "all season" tires through ice and snow one day and running the same route under the same conditions with proper winter tires the next.

Blizzaks and similar tires, of course, tend to cost more than regular "all season" rubber. But, strangely to us, they can cost less than high-performance tires meant for dry roads. Consumers should shop around to get the best price. It's worth it, as we discovered with the Blizzak LM-25 tires on the RX-8.

The weather turned nasty the day the rear-wheel-drive coupe-that-isn't-a-coupe arrived. Snow fell, temperatures dropped. At night, the snow turned to ice.

Through it all, the little RX-8 drove nicely, never once slipping or otherwise losing its grip on the road. Neither Ria nor I tried pushing the RX-8 too hard. Blizzak tires or no Blizzaks, we both have families and we rather like returning to them alive and well after work.

We did have some good weather that allowed us to drive the RX-8 more briskly. The 1.3-liter, 232-horsepower, rotary engine car—this one marking the 40th anniversary of Mazda's high-horsepower, low-torque, still-thirsty tiny engine—tends to whine at high speeds. But the car is quick and nimble. We both called it "fun to drive."

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS
This is a "me" car, as opposed to a "we" car. The small rear-access doors and two rear seats are a nice gimmick. But they're only a gimmick. The tiny size and geometry of the rotary engine allows great vehicle packaging and presentation. But it does next to nothing for fuel economy in a world that needs much more of that.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
Excellent ride for the driver and front passenger. The RX-8 also has excellent acceleration and handling. We disagree with critics who say the RX-8 is "slow" because it moves from zero to 60 mph in seven seconds. In fact, we find such criticism downright silly for daily driving on public roads, where being able to move at all is often a blessing.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The RX-8 is a front-engine, rear-wheel-drive sports car with coupe-roadster styling and sedan pretensions. It is available in three trim levels: Sport, Touring, and the tested Grand Touring (this one with the Rotary Engine 40th Anniversary package).

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
The RX-8 comes with a 1.3-liter rotary engine that develops 232 horsepower at 8,500 rpm and 159 foot-pounds of torque at 5,500 rpm. The engine is linked to a six-speed manual transmission. A six-speed automatic that also can be shifted manually is available.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for four people. Our real-world experience is that that car provides comfort only for two. Maximum luggage capacity is eight cubic feet. Fuel capacity is 15.9 gallons of required — and that means "required" — premium unleaded.

MILEAGE
Mileage under the Environmental Protection Agency's 2008 mileage rating system is 16 miles per gallon in the city and 22 mpg on the highway.

SAFETY
Side and head air bags, electronic stability and traction control are standard.

PRICE
Base price for the 2008 Mazda RX-8 Grand Touring is $31,070. Dealer's price on that model is $28,735. Price as tested is $32,635, including $930 in options (Sirius Satellite Radio and upgraded sound system) and a $635 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $30,114. Prices sourced from Mazda, www.edmunds.com and www.cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
It's a nice toy. Shop accordingly.

Automakers take shine to dull finishes

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP AUTO WRITER

DETROIT (AP) -- You can get a matte finish on your photos or your cell phone, so why not on your car? Dull was the new shiny at last month's North American Auto Show in Detroit, where at least eight cars from General Motors Corp., Volkswagen AG's Lamborghini and Audi divisions, and others sported a gleam-free matte finish. It's a trend likely to show up more and more as drivers seek to differentiate their vehicles.

Matte finish has been appearing on show cars for several years, usually as an accent color to highlight a specific feature such as fender flares. But the all-over matte finish, a trend that began with customizers, is going mainstream. Karen Surcina, color technology and marketing manager of Dupont Automotive, said buyers should expect to see matte finishes on specialty or limited-run vehicles in the next two or three years.

"We expect that the matte trend would be more of a niche offering," she said.

It's easy to see why automakers are keen on the trend. Ed Welburn, GM's vice president for design, said nearly all automakers are experimenting with matte because it shows off the pure design of the car.

"It reduces the design to the very core elements because you're not influenced by the surroundings at all. You don't have the reflections of trees or buildings or the reflection of clouds or anything on the car because of the matte finish," Welburn said at the Detroit show, where GM's Hummer HX and Chevrolet Groove concepts had matte finish. "You see the pure surface development and nothing else."

Aaron Bragman, an auto industry analyst for the consulting company Global Insight, said another reason matte finishes are taking off is that young drivers, who are used to the flat finishes on their cell phones and laptops, no longer equate shininess with luxury.

Because matte is a clear finish, it can go on over any paint color, from the gray-green of the Hummer HX to the robin's egg blue of the Lamborghini Murcielago LP640 Coupe. Lamborghini, which made its first foray into matte last year with the metallic gray $1.4 million Reventon super car, is now highlighting the sharp lines of its Gallardo Spyder with a new matte brown paint.

Mercedes-Benz AG introduced its small sport utility concept, the GLK Freeside, in a pearl white matte in Detroit, while Chrysler LLC's Jeep Renegade turned heads with its bright green matte.

Automakers have shied away from matte finishes because of their inherent difficulties. Jane Harrington, market manager for color styling for automotive paint supplier PPG Industries, said low-gloss finishes can take on a shiny look with washing, and it's also harder to conceal the lines from repairs.

"You would not believe how difficult it is to do a matte finish in production," Welburn said. "Every time you take it through the car wash, the buffers are starting to buff it back up and it starts to get shiny there. It's easy to paint, but it's not easy to keep it matte."

But Harrington and Surcina, of Dupont, say their companies have countered those flaws. Peter Horbury, Ford Motor Co.'s executive design director for the Americas, said the technology has improved so dramatically in the last few years that Ford is now seriously exploring matte finishes.

As automakers grow closer to parity in technology, safety and other features, styling - including colors and finishes - is becoming a critical differentiator.

AP

A Lamborghini Gallardo Spyder with non-glassy matte paint finish is shown at the North American International Auto Show Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2008, in Detroit.

Life & Style

Augie T. conquers Saipan in 2-night show

Jose "Dynamite" Figueras delivers his opening act.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hawaii comedian, radio and TV personality Augie T. was on Saipan for a two-night comedy show at Club V for the benefit of the Northern Marianas College Foundation.

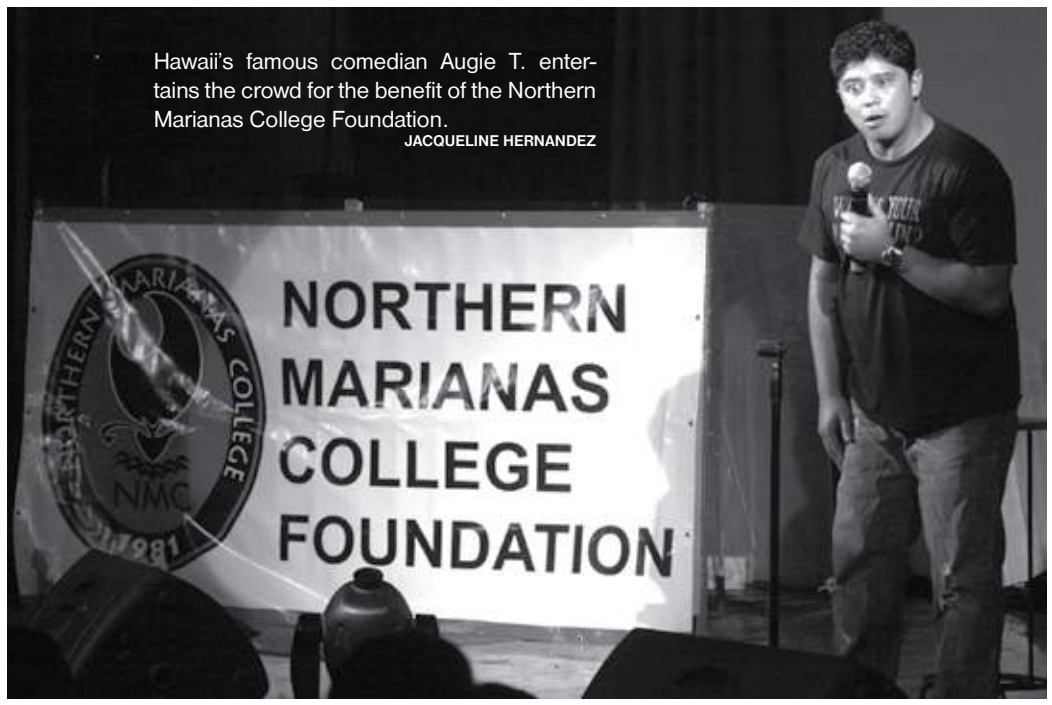
Jose "Dynamite" Figueras, who regularly goes with Augie T. in his shows, was the opening act.

Augie T. said that it was actually his third time to be on Saipan. He first came to the island as an opening act for the Hawaiian band Kapena for their show at Pacific Gardenia about 10 years ago.

The comedian was in his best element, leaving the audience roaring with laughter the whole hour and a half of the show. Augie T.'s comedy act included talking about his stay on Saipan, his experiences from his shows in Hawaii, Guam and Japan.

Governor and First Lady Benigno and Josie Fitial, who were among the VIP audience during the Saturday night show, were both up and game for Augie T.'s humor.

The sponsors of the comedy show included NMC Foundation, Continental Airlines, Tan Holdings Corp., Club V, *Saipan Tribune*, Saipan Grand Hotel, Power 99 and The Rock, Pacific Trading Co., PTI, Elite Printing, and Shell Marianas.



Hawaii's famous comedian Augie T. entertains the crowd for the benefit of the Northern Marianas College Foundation.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Hundreds of Saipan residents gather at the Club V of Saipan Grand Hotel Saturday night to watch Hawaii's famous comedian Augie T.

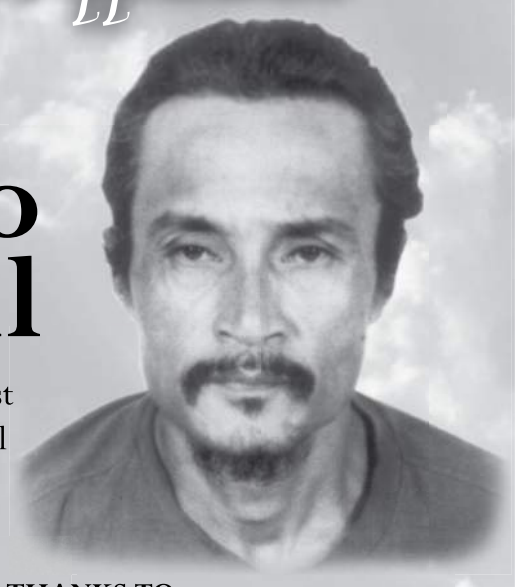
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and wife Josie, Justine and Jonavelle Padiernos enjoy the outrageous antics of comedian Augie T.

Comedian Augie T., and Jose "Dynamite" Figueras join Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez and students after the stand-up comedy show.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Message of Appreciation

On behalf of the family of the late

Skaruno Renguul



we are extending our outmost appreciation and thanks to all that helped us during our time of mourning.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Dept. of Public Safety Rescue Team/Fire Team
- Dept. of Emergency Management Office
- Congressman Oscar Babauta
- Congressman Joseph P. DLGuerrero
- Congressman Ramon Tebuteb
- Congressman Heinz Hofschneider
- Senator Luis Crisostimo
- Mayor Juan Tudela
- Lt. Governor Tim Villagomez
- Techa: Dolores Emul
- M/M. Johanes Selbert
- M/M. Stanley Santos
- M/M. Juan Camacho
- Palau Community of Saipan
- M/M. Antonio Santos
- M/M. Antonio & Anemary LeonGuerrero & Kids
- Ramona Taisakan and Juan Ruebenog

And to all that were present during the nine days of rosary.
We thank you and we will always remember you in our hearts.

From Frauline Chisato & Children

Death photo of war reporter Pyle found

By RICHARD PYLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The figure in the photograph is clad in Army fatigues, boots and helmet, lying on his back in peaceful repose, folded hands holding a military cap. Except for a thin trickle of blood from the corner of his mouth, he could be asleep.

But he is not asleep; he is dead. And this is not just another fallen GI; it is Ernie Pyle, the most celebrated war correspondent of World War II.

As far as can be determined, the photograph has never been published. Sixty-three years after Pyle was killed by the Japanese, it has surfaced—surprising historians, reminding a forgetful world of a humble correspondent who artfully and ardently told the story of a war from the foxholes.

"It's a striking and painful image, but Ernie Pyle wanted people to see and understand the sacrifices that soldiers had to make, so it's fitting, in a way, that this photo of his own death ... drives home the reality and the finality of that sacrifice," said James E. Tobin, a professor at Miami University of Ohio.

Tobin, author of a 1997 biography, "Ernie Pyle's War," and Owen V. Johnson, an Indiana University professor who collects Pyle-related correspondence, said they had never seen the photo. The negative is long lost, and only a few prints are known to exist.

"When I think about the real treasures of American history that we have," says Mark Foynes, director of the Wright Museum of World War II in Wolfeboro, N.H., "this picture is definitely in the ballpark."

■ ■ ■

"COMMAND POST, IE SHIMA, April 18 (AP)—Ernie Pyle, war correspondent beloved by his co-workers, GIs and generals alike, was killed by a Japanese machine-gun bullet through his left temple this morning ..."

The news stunned a nation still mourning the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt six days earlier. Callers besieged newspaper switchboards. "Ernie is mourned by the Army," said soldier-artist Bill Mauldin, whose droll, irreverent GI cartoons had made him nearly as famous as Pyle.

He was right; even amid heavy fighting, Pyle's death was a prime topic among the troops.

"If I had not been there to see it, I would have taken with a grain of salt any report that the GI was taking Ernie Pyle's death `hard,' but that is the only word that best describes the universal reaction out here," Army photographer Alexander Roberts wrote to Lee Miller, a friend of Ernie and his first biographer.

But Ernie Pyle was not just any reporter. He was a household name during World War II and for years afterward. From 1941 until his death, Pyle riveted the nation with personal, straight-from-the-heart tales about hometown soldiers in history's greatest conflict.

In 1944, his columns for Scripps-Howard Newspapers earned a Pulitzer Prize and Hollywood made a movie, "Ernie Pyle's Story of G.I. Joe," starring Burgess Meredith as the slender, balding 44-year-old reporter.

Typically self-effacing, Pyle insisted the film include fellow war correspondents playing themselves. But he was killed before it was released.

In April 1945, the one-time Indiana farm boy had just arrived in the Pacific after four years of covering combat in North Africa, Italy and France. With Germany on the verge of surrender, he wanted to see the war to its end, but confided to colleagues that he didn't expect to survive.

At Okinawa he found U.S. forces battling entrenched Japanese defenders while "kamikaze" suicide pilots wreaked carnage on the Allied fleet offshore.

On April 16, the Army's 77th Infantry Division landed on Ie Shima, a small island off Okinawa, to capture an airfield. Although a sideshow to the main battle, it was "warfare in its worst form," photographer Roberts wrote later. "Not one Japanese soldier surrendered, he killed until he was killed."

On the third morning, a jeep carrying Pyle and three officers came under fire from a hidden machine gun. All scrambled for cover in roadside ditches, but when Pyle raised his head, a .30 caliber bullet caught him in the left temple, killing him instantly.

Roberts and two other photographers, including AP's Grant MacDonald, were at a command post 300 yards away when Col. Joseph Coolidge, who had been with Pyle in the jeep, reported what happened.

Roberts went to the scene, and despite continuing enemy fire, crept forward—a "laborious, dirt-eating crawl," he later called it—to record the scene with his Speed Graphic camera. His risky act earned Roberts a Bronze Star medal for valor.

Pyle was first buried among soldiers on Ie Shima. In 1949 his body was moved to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl Crater, near Honolulu.

Roberts' photograph, however, was never seen by the public. He told Miller the War Department had withheld it "out of deference" to Ernie's ailing widow, Jerry.

"It was so peaceful a death ... that I felt its reproduction would not be in bad taste," he said, "but there probably would be another school of thought on this."

AP

This photo provided by Richard Strasser, perhaps never before published, shows famed World War II war correspondent Ernie Pyle shortly after he was killed by a Japanese machine gun bullet on the island of Ie Shima on April 18, 1945. Pyle, 44, had just arrived in the Pacific after four years of writing his popular column from European battlefronts. The Army photographer who crawled forward under fire to make this picture later said it was withheld by military officials. An AP survey of history museums and archives found only a few copies in existence, and no trace of the original negative.

■ ■ ■

Eight military museums and history centers queried by AP said the negative and photo were unknown to them. This included the National Archives & Records Administration, the most likely repository.

"Considering all the photo research done on World War II, and thousands of letters requesting information about our holdings, my guess is it would have been `discovered' by a researcher or staff member by now," said Edward McCarter, NARA's top still-photos archivist.

Prints taken from Roberts' negative at the time of Pyle's death "would appear to be the only record that the photo was actually made," McCarter said.

At least two such prints were kept as souvenirs by veterans who served aboard USS *Panamint*, a Navy communications ship in the Okinawa campaign. Although the two men never met, they came by the photo in similar ways, and both later recognized its importance to posterity.

Retired naval officer Richard Strasser, 88, of Goshen, Ind., who recalls Pyle visiting the ship just before he was killed, said a friend named George, who ran the ship's darkroom, gave him a packet of pictures after Japan surrendered in August 1945.

Months later, back in civilian life, Strasser finally opened the envelope. "I was surprised to find a picture of Ernie Pyle," he said. "At the time, Ernie's widow was still alive and I considered sending the photo to her, but had mixed feelings about it. In the end I did nothing."

Strasser recently provided his photo—a still-pristine contact print from the 4-by-5-inch negative—to the AP. He since has made it available to the Newseum, a $435 million news museum scheduled to open in Washington this year.

Margaret Engel, the Newseum's managing editor, says the photo is "of strong historic interest," and because Pyle died at the height of his fame, "the circumstances of his death ... remain a compelling story for students of journalism and the war."

Ex-Petty Officer Joseph T. Bannan, who joined USS *Panamint*'s crew in May 1945 after his own ship was damaged by a kamikaze, said his Pyle photo came from a ship's photographer he remembers only as "Joe from Philadelphia."

Bannan, 82, of Boynton Beach, Fla., said "Joe" told him he had been ordered to destroy the negative "because of the effect it would have on the morale of the American public."

In 2004, Bannan donated copies of the photo to the Wright Museum, the Ernie Pyle State Historic Site at Dana, Ind., and the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla.

Yet another copy was acquired by the Indiana Historical Society at a 1999 auction. Historian Susan Sutton said she had no information on its origin or the seller.

Both Strasser and Bannan assumed a Navy photographer had made the picture. Only Roberts, however, is known to have visited the death scene, and with no Army Signal Corps photo lab nearby, his film went to the nearest ship offshore—USS *Panamint*.

This was "standard procedure" in the Pacific, says retired AP photographer Max Desfor, 96, who covered Okinawa and later won a Pulitzer Prize in Korea. "No question that's what happened."

In tracing the picture's history, AP learned of a second photo, showing Pyle's body on a stretcher. The fatal wound, unseen in Roberts' photo, appears as a dark spot above his left eyebrow.

That photo, of unknown origin, appears to be an amateur snapshot, said Katherine Gould, assistant curator of cultural history at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis, which acquired it and Bannan's photo last year from the Dana historic site.

As war photographs go, neither could be considered grisly, but they were never displayed at Dana. "We get a lot of kids here," spokeswoman Janice Duncan said.

One who did see the Roberts photo there is Bruce L. Johnson, 84, of Afton, Minn., a nephew and one of the few surviving relatives who knew Pyle.

In April 1945, Johnson was a sailor aboard the seaplane tender USS *Norton Sound*, which by a quirk of fate was a few miles away when Pyle was killed. In fact, the two had been writing letters home, trying to figure out a way they could rendezvous.

"We were in the mess hall and the news came over the ship's loudspeaker," he recalled. "It was just a shock."

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We, the family of the late

†Cpl. Lee Roy Apatang Camacho

invite all our families, relatives, and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the first year anniversary of our dear beloved.

Daily Mass will be offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral of the following dates

Friday, February 01	**6:00AM**
Saturday, February 02	**6:00AM**
Sunday, February 03	**9:00AM**
Monday, February 04	**6:00AM**
Tuesday, February 05	**6:00AM**
Wednesday, February 06	**6:00AM**
Thursday, February 07	**6:00AM**
Friday, February 08	**6:00AM**

On the final day, Saturday, February 09, 2008, Mass will be said at 6:00AM followed by breakfast at Joeten DaiDai Social Hall.

Thank you and Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

From
Velma M. Camacho and Children

Spears to stay in hospital 14 more days

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Britney Spears got her stay in a psychiatric ward extended Sunday, as doctors decided to keep her hospitalized an additional 14 days, someone close to the pop star told the Associated Press.

Spears was to be released from UCLA Medical Center's psychiatric hospital Sunday, but doctors and a medical officer at the ward determined that she should remain, said the person, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

Spears was committed Thursday for a 72-hour hold for evaluation. Paramedics, flanked by a police escort of about a dozen officers on motorcycles, in cars and a helicopter, took Spears from her home to the psychiatric hospital before dawn.

To extend her stay, hospital staff members cited a section in the state law that allows patients to be retained for medical treatment if they are found to be gravely disabled or a danger to themselves or others, the person said.

A UCLA Medical Center spokesman did not immediately return a phone message Sunday seeking comment. Calls to attorneys Sorrell Trope, Spears' personal lawyer, and Andrew Wallet, also were not returned.

Court Commissioner Reva Goetz ruled the day after Spears was hospitalized - and following a year of increasingly bizarre public behavior - that she needed to have someone else take over her personal and financial affairs.

Goetz named Spears' father, James Spears, as her conservator. Goetz also named Spears father and Wallet as conservators of the pop star's estate. A court creates a conservatorship when it concludes a person no longer can care for themselves or their personal and financial affairs.

In placing Spears in one, Goetz also issued a restraining order, keeping Sam Lutfi, the pop star's friend and sometime manager, away from her.

Goetz also granted the conservator access to Spears' medical records, as well as the right to restrict her visitors and to provide her with around-the-clock security. She ordered a hearing Monday to review the matter.

Spears' current hospitalization is the second this year for the 26-year-old singer, who has been in spiral of bizarre behavior since November 2006, when she filed for divorce from Kevin Federline, the father of her sons, 1-year-old Jayden James and 2-year-old Sean Preston.

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HANNAH MONTANA
Miley Cyrus
BEST OF BOTH WORLDS CONCERT
3-D

AP

Moviegoers line up to see a screening of the 3-D film "Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert" at the Ziegfeld theater Saturday, Feb. 2, 2008 in New York.

'Hannah' holds box-office sway with $29M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—First, she sells out a nationwide concert tour. Now Miley Cyrus and pop-star alter-ego Hannah Montana are selling out movie theaters in such record-breaking style that the film's run has been extended.

"Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert," the 3-D film chronicling her recent tour, was the biggest debut ever over Super Bowl weekend, pulling in $29 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Distributor Disney planned to have the movie out for only a week but now has decided to keep it in theaters until it runs its course.

The concert film - featuring 15-year-old Cyrus both as herself backstage and as her Disney Channel character, pop sensation Hannah - filled the void for fans unable to catch one of the live shows on the Hannah Montana 54-date tour.

The digital 3-D technology also gave fans the illusion of practically being at a live show, said Mark Zoradi, president of Disney's motion-picture group, who visited several packed theaters where the movie played over the weekend.

"The screaming level was unbelievable. It almost plays like a concert. At the end of a song, you have audiences clapping like you do at a concert," Zoradi said. "Parents who weren't able to get concert tickets, now they were able to take their kids and satisfy that demand, and kids were in a way able to be up close and personal, with the best seats in the house."

The film surpassed the previous Super Bowl record of $21.6 million set by "When a Stranger Calls," which opened over the same weekend two years ago.

1. "Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert," $29 million.
2. "The Eye," $13 million.
3. "27 Dresses," $8.4 million.
4. "Juno," $7.5 million.
5. "Meet the Spartans," $7.1 million.
6. "Rambo," $7 million.
7. "The Bucket List," $6.9 million.
8. "Untraceable," $5.4 million.
9. "Cloverfield," $4.9 million.
10. "There Will Be Blood," $4.8 million.

Lionsgate's "The Eye," a remake of the Japanese horror hit, opened at No. 2 with $13 million. "The Eye" stars Jessica Alba as a blind concert violinist whose vision is restored by a corneal transplant that also results in terrifying visions.

"Desperate Housewives" co-star Eva Longoria Parker delivered a dud with her first top-billed movie, "Over Her Dead Body," which opened with a weak $4.6 million to finish at No. 11. Distributed by New Line, the movie stars Longoria Parker as a dead woman whose ghost tries to break up a romance between her fiance (Paul Rudd) and his new girlfriend.

Playing in just 683 theaters, "Hannah Montana" broke another record: never before has a movie in so few cinemas premiered at the top of the box office chart.

The movie averaged a whopping $42,460 a theater, compared to an average of $5,337 in each of 2,436 cinemas for "The Eye" and about $2,327 in each of 1,977 theaters for "Over Her Dead Body."

The grosses for "Hannah Montana" were boosted by higher admission prices many theaters charged because of the 3-D format. Tickets for "Hannah Montana" ran as high as $15, roughly 50 percent more than the top price for other movies.

Hollywood's box-office roll continued, with the top-12 movies taking in $101.5 million, up 43 percent from Super Bowl weekend a year ago. Movie attendance so far this year is up nearly 11 percent, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

Furry critters abound in Super Bowl ads

NEW YORK (AP)—It was an epic battle of the creatures Sunday night in the Super Bowl ads, ranging from the cute to the menacing to the inexplicably rhythmic. A band of lizard-like reptiles cutting the rug to Michael Jackson's "Thriller"? Hey, it's the Super Bowl.

Much is riding on the ads, which are the most closely scrutinized of the whole year, as well as the most watched and the most expensive. This year's 30-second spots on News Corp.'s Fox network broadcast were fetching as much as $2.7 million. The price edges higher nearly every year.

Last year the game drew 93 million viewers, a level that many believe could be surpassed this year given the strong matchup between the New York Giants and the New England Patriots, as well as the Patriots' chance to go for a record unbeaten season.

Using critters is hardly a new trick in the ads for the big game, but this year saw some novel and clever uses of animals.

FedEx Corp.'s ad took a decidedly Hitchcockian turn when a corporate underling entrusts shipping operations to a huge squadron of carrier pigeons - eerily reminiscent of "The Birds."

When a tribe of giant pigeons winds up wreaking havoc by accidentally dropping huge boxes into traffic and picking up parked cars and hurling them through windows, a cool-headed supervisor decides that calling FedEx would be a good idea.

Toyota Motor Corp. took a stab at the critter theme with a clever spot for its Corolla model, boasting of the noise-blocking ability of the car by putting a young guy in the drivers seat next to a sleeping family of badgers that will gnaw his face off if awakened. The cannons firing around him aren't the problem, but he would have been better off putting his cell phone on vibrate.

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Sweeny Todd: Demon Barber
Friday 4:05 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25
Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter
Thriller, Musical • Rated R
Synopsis
Benjamin Barker, a man unjustly sent to prison by a lecherous judge, vows revenge, not only for that cruel punishment, but for the devastating consequences of what happened to his wife and daughter. When he returns to reopen his barber shop, Sweeney Todd becomes the Demon Barber of Fleet Street who "shaved the heads of gentlemen who never thereafter were heard from again."

Meet the Spartans
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:15 4:20 7:10 9:35
Sunday 1:15 4:20 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10
Diedrich Bader, Kevin Sorbo
Comedy • Rated PG13
Synopsis
From the creators of Scary Movie and Date Movie comes this tongue-in-cheek parody of the sword-and-sandal epics, dubbed Meet the Spartans. The 20th Century Fox production is written and directed by the filmmaking team of Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer. Sure Leonidas may have nothing more than a cape and some leather underwear to protect him from the razor sharp swords of his Persian enemies, but that won't stop the brave leader and his team of thirteen warriors from defending their beloved homeland against a powerful invading force that includes the likes of a mutant Paris Hilton, the Transformers, the Ghost Rider and Rocky Balboa.

Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo
Friday 4:30 7:05 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:05 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:05
Judy Ann Santos, Ryan Agoncillo
Comedy, Romance • Rated NR
Synopsis
Angie (Judy Ann Santos) and Jed (Ryan Agoncillo) are first-time parents who experience the joys and pains of raising a child. They realize that parenthood is extremely demanding that they learn to sacrifice their own interests for their baby. One day, Jed has to go abroad for a business convention. Angie decides to go along, leaving their child with their friends. This is when their mothers (Gloria Diaz and Gina Pareño) come in and take turns taking care of their child, which led to a total disaster.

Cloverfield
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Michael Stahl David, Mike Vogel
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

27 Dresses
Friday 4:15 7:20 10:00
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:20 10:00
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:20
Katherine Heigl, James Marsden
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13

The Bucket List
Friday 4:10 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15
Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

Mad Money
Friday 4:25 7:30 9:50
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:30
Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPERSAVERS
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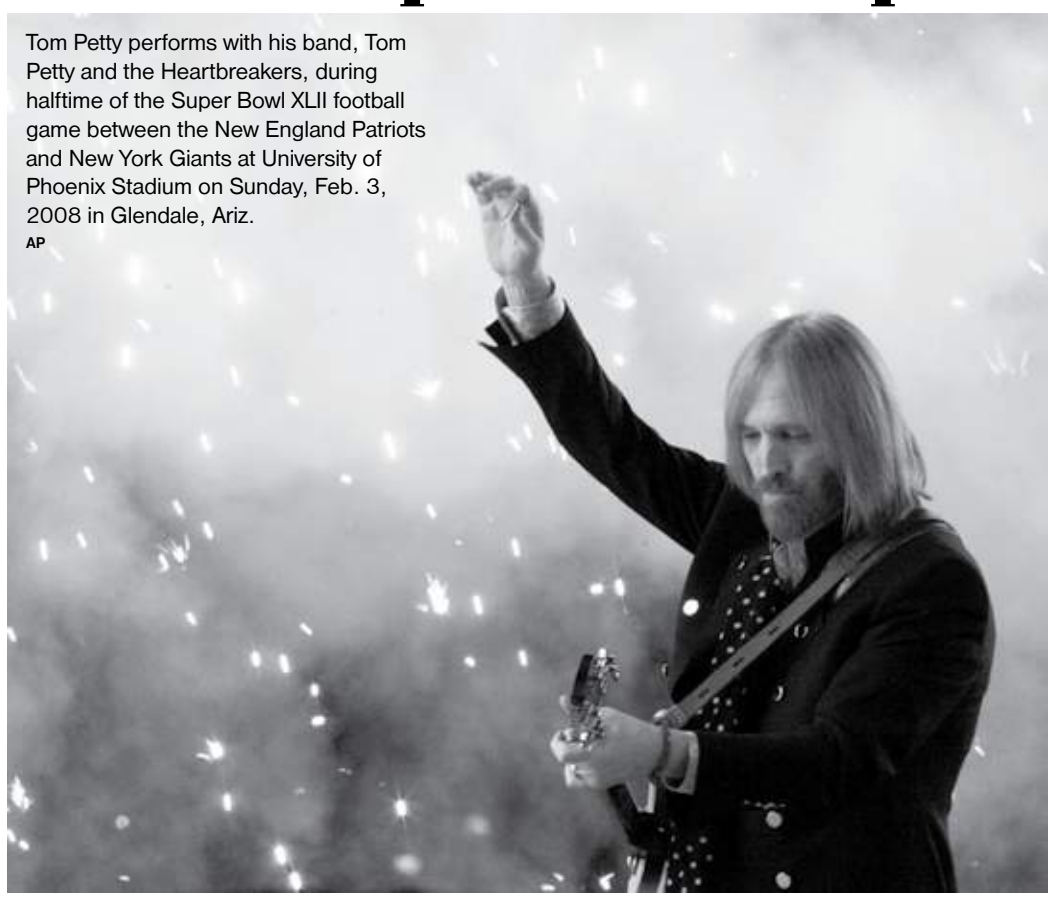
Fox wins with Super Bowl upset



Tom Petty performs with his band, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, during halftime of the Super Bowl XLII football game between the New England Patriots and New York Giants at University of Phoenix Stadium on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008 in Glendale, Ariz.
AP

NEW YORK (AP) -- In one of the greatest Super Bowls ever, one of the night's big winners was sure to be Fox.

It wasn't just the Patriots that were seeking history on Super Bowl Sunday. Fox was hoping New England's pursuit of an undefeated season, coupled with the underdog New York Giants would break the record 94.08 million viewers who watched the 1996 Super Bowl.

Fox had more luck than the Patriots.

Ratings weren't available Sunday night, but the unexpected and riveting game was sure to mean exceptional viewership retention through the broadcast. Losing viewers is always a matter of chance with Super Bowls, which often are blowouts.

To help its cause, Fox brought in a ringer: the network's other ratings monster, "American Idol."

Before the game, "Idol" host Ryan Seacrest rolled out a red carpet, "Idol" judge Paula Abdul performed her first new song in a decade, and "Idol" winner Jordin Sparks sang the national anthem.

Of course, the Super Bowl already had its "American Idol": the dashing, unflappable Tom Brady, upon whom the Fox cameras were always focused.

But by the end of the night, Brady had shockingly, unbelievably ceded his crown to Giants quarterback Eli Manning. Manning engineered a late charge down the field that culminated with a touchdown pass to Plaxico Burress. With a 17-14 win, the Giants ended New England's undefeated season and won Super Bowl XLII at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz.

The classic contest, arguably one of the greatest upsets ever, surely meant big numbers for Fox.

With so many young, attractive celebrities both on the field and off, halftime performer Tom Petty seemed a world apart. He and the Heartbreakers have long specialized in anthemic sing-alongs, but Petty's prevailing demeanor has always been a bemused one.

No over-the-top showman, Petty was a welcome bit of understatement, calmly playing on a heart-shaped stage amid a sea of Super Bowl excess.

Petty and the Heartbreakers played old classics, mostly unaltered, including "I Won't Back Down," "Free Fallin'" and "Running Down a Dream." It may not have been the most radical concert ever seen, but Petty let the songs speak for themselves and, as Prince did last year, gave an excellent show.

But given the Giants' upset win, Petty was likely to be an afterthought on Monday.

Fox's commentating duo, play-by-play man Joe Buck with analyst and former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman, kept their approach largely straightforward. Buck rarely strayed from the action on the field, and Aikman, while not especially illuminating, accurately chronicled the Giants' surprise success on defense.

Speaking of Fox's mid-game highlight reels, Buck said: "We may not be the best announcers out there, but our truck does that stuff the best."

True enough, so long as you disregard those ridiculous warrior-robot animations the network constantly employs.

But in a memorable upset, neither Buck nor Aikman uttered a memorable line to be replayed for years. It was a situation screaming for gravitas, but none was to be found.

Perhaps the most poignant accomplishment of the broadcast was in its frequent (but not overdone) cutaways to Eli's big brother, Peyton, who cheered passionately from a private box.

Together, the hard-nosed game and the strong halftime show were enough to make Fox's telecast a seamless and successful one. But it didn't start out that way.

Fox, which is owned by News Corp., opened Sunday's coverage at noon (EDT), with the official pre-game show beginning at 2 p.m., live from Glendale. Curt Menefee anchored the regular Fox Sports cast of Terry Bradshaw, Howie Long and Jimmy Johnson.

Four hours, though, is a long time to fake laugh.

Their football commentary was surrounded by entertainment segments, including those from Fox News host Neil Cavuto and impersonator Frank Caliendo of TBS' "Frank TV." Caliendo, a frequent contributor to Fox Sports, finally seemed to have gotten on Bradshaw's last nerve.

"My mom will whup his butt," Bradshaw said. "I'm fed up with this little runt."

Soon, Seacrest seemed more the host than Menefee and company.

Though several of this winter's regular red carpet affairs have been canceled due to the writers strike, Seacrest brought the award show tradition to the normally beer-soaked stadium parking lot.

It was, literally, a red carpet to nowhere, as it was located a half-mile from the stadium.

Abdul used the stage to debut her first new single in years: "Dance Like There's No Tomorrow." Abdul, who has had her share of public miscues, performed the song in a taped performance from some undisclosed location.

Note to the next dismissed "Idol" contestant: Be sure to tell Paula that at least you didn't lip-sync.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Katharine McPhee weds producer boyfriend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former "American Idol" contestant Katharine McPhee has wed producer Nick Cokas. The pair married Saturday in Beverly Hills, McPhee's representative, Justin Gray Stone, told People Magazine. "(Nick) is the love of my life," McPhee said. "This is a once in a lifetime occasion and everything is just perfect." McPhee, 23, and Cokas, 42, met in 2005. Their relationship blossomed when McPhee auditioned for "American Idol" later that year, according to People. They got engaged last year. Fellow season-five "American Idol" contestants Kellie Pickler and Mandisa were among the 305 wedding guests. McPhee lost the "Idol" sing-off to Taylor Hicks.

French leader, wife stay near Versailles

PARIS (AP)—French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his new wife, Carla Bruni, spent their wedding night in a former hunting lodge near the palace at Versailles, news reports said Sunday. An Associated Press photographer spotted the newlyweds taking a stroll, hand-in-hand, in Versailles' gardens on Sunday, a day after their small, private wedding at the presidential Elysee Palace. The two hosted a small wedding dinner Saturday night at La Lanterne, a former hunting lodge in Versailles, outside Paris, that has become a presidential residence, Le Journal du Dimanche newspaper said. Sarkozy, 53, and Bruni, 40, were married Saturday, less than three months after they reportedly first met, and less than four months after his divorce from the previous first lady, Cecilia.

Jolie collects award for 'Mighty Heart'

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—Angelina Jolie traveled up the California coast to receive the Santa Barbara International Film Festival's "Performance of the Year" award. The 32-year-old actress was honored Saturday for her portrayal of Mariane Pearl, wife of slain journalist Daniel Pearl, in the film "A Mighty Heart." It's one of numerous awards Jolie has received for the role, but among the few she's personally collected. "To be honest, I just heard that it was a beautiful festival, and one to take seriously," Jolie told Associated Press Television News. The award was presented by Clint Eastwood, director of Jolie's upcoming drama "The Changeling." Jolie arrived with her partner, Brad Pitt, who did not speak to the media but briefly posed with Jolie for photos.

Readers sound off on what's really wrong with our world

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR READERS: In late October, I printed a letter from "Tab in Swansea, Ill.," who asked what I perceive to be the main problem in society today. I responded that, as my column reflects, there is more than one. Then I asked what you, my readers, think is society's greatest problem—and the roof fell in! Your response was enormous, and I wish I could share all of it, but space does not permit. Today and tomorrow I'll print a sample:

DEAR ABBY: The main problem in our society today is lack of personal responsibility—from the deadbeat dad to the CEOs of major companies manipulating financial statements for personal benefit. Our society will prosper only if we all take responsibility for our actions.

—MARK IN WEST ALLIS, WIS.

DEAR ABBY: It's greed! The unwillingness to consider how our behavior affects others. We have become so obsessed with material things and a "what's in it for me" mentality that we have forgotten to live by the Golden Rule.

—JUDY IN WICHITA, KAN.

DEAR ABBY: Society's greatest problem is intolerance. It breeds all the other problems. We're intolerant of other people's views, religions, looks, sexual orientation, languages, mode of dress, career choice, whether to parent—or not. We're in the business of NOT minding our own business.

—MARILYN IN THE GARDEN STATE

DEAR ABBY: It's apathy ... but, who cares?

—MALCOLM IN MIAMI

DEAR ABBY: It's the breakdown of the nuclear family and lack of good parenting. I didn't even know divorce existed when I was growing up. I now work in a high school and see dozens of kids in trouble each day because they don't have proper role models at home. We see girls pregnant beginning at age 14, and the parents just shrug it off. Rude, violent kids were the exception when I was young. Kids today are not loved and watched over. If parents were like they used to be, this would be a safer, saner place.

—MARY IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR ABBY: Technology has outstripped our growth as human beings. People's basic nature hasn't changed much in the last few thousand years—what we want, need, fear and hate are pretty much the same as they have always been. But in the last 100 years or so, we have gained global abilities. We've created the technology to destroy our planet but have not developed the corresponding maturity—either as individuals or societies—to handle the abilities we've developed.

—NAOMI IN BERGENFIELD, N.J.

DEAR ABBY: It's the personal isolation of people today. Business people will not answer their telephones and speak directly with customers. Individuals won't answer their phones at home, but do respond to e-mail and text messages. A generation has been schooled to keep a cell phone glued to their ears at all times instead of communicating face-to-face.

If Darwin was right, future generations will no longer require a tongue because we will no longer converse. Instead, we'll grow extra fingers with which to type and text.

—RON C., SOULSBYVILLE, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: The answer to your question is fairly simple. There's no respect, no discipline, no courtesy and no consideration for others. Is my opinion politically correct? No. Am I right on the money? Yes! Thank you, Dr. Spock. (PC is not my strong suit.)

—GARY IN ROCKWALL, TEXAS

DEAR READERS: Hang on ... there's more tomorrow.

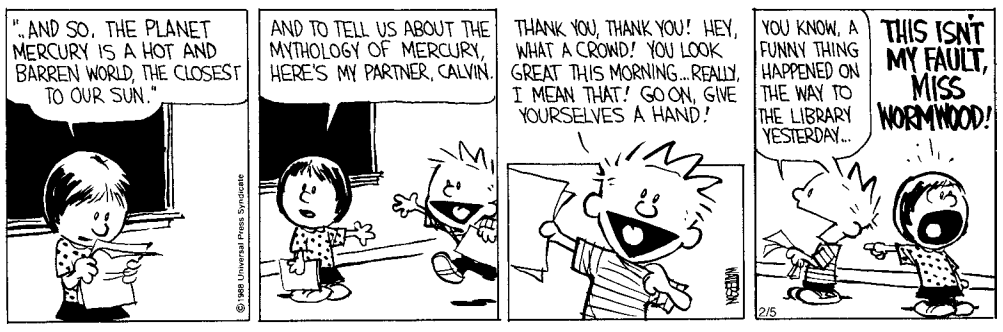
■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


"...AND SO, THE PLANET MERCURY IS A HOT AND BARREN WORLD, THE CLOSEST TO OUR SUN."
AND TO TELL US ABOUT THE MYTHOLOGY OF MERCURY, HERE'S MY PARTNER, CALVIN.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU! HEY, WHAT A CROWD! YOU LOOK GREAT THIS MORNING...REALLY, I MEAN THAT! GO ON, GIVE YOURSELVES A HAND!
YOU KNOW, A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE LIBRARY YESTERDAY...
THIS ISN'T MY FAULT, MISS WORMWOOD!
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
2/5

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND IN THE WHOLE WORLD!
SMACK!
HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW CRUEL THE WORLD IS?
I'M PICKING UP ON THAT...
JIM DAVIS 2-5
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www.garfield.com
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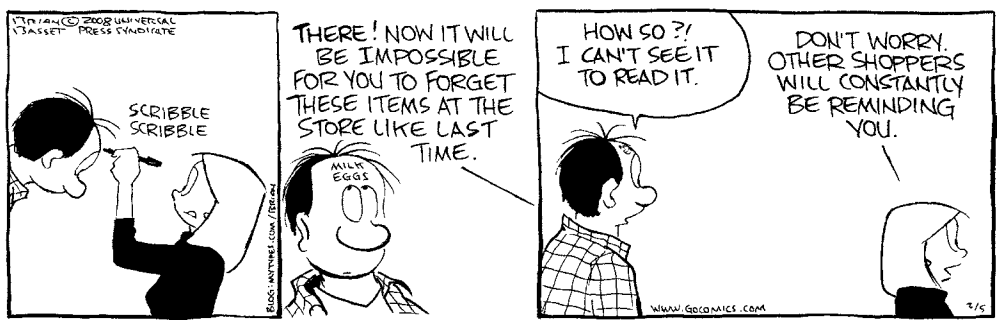
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
THERE! NOW IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO FORGET THESE ITEMS AT THE STORE LIKE LAST TIME.
MILK
EGGS
HOW SO?! I CAN'T SEE IT TO READ IT.
DON'T WORRY. OTHER SHOPPERS WILL CONSTANTLY BE REMINDING YOU.
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CAN YOU RECOMMEND AN APPETIZER?
TRY THE FRESH-MEX SAMPLER.
GEE. THAT'S PRETTY PRICEY. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING CHEAPER?
HOW 'BOUT OUR STALE-MEX SAMPLER?
© 2004 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
2/5

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

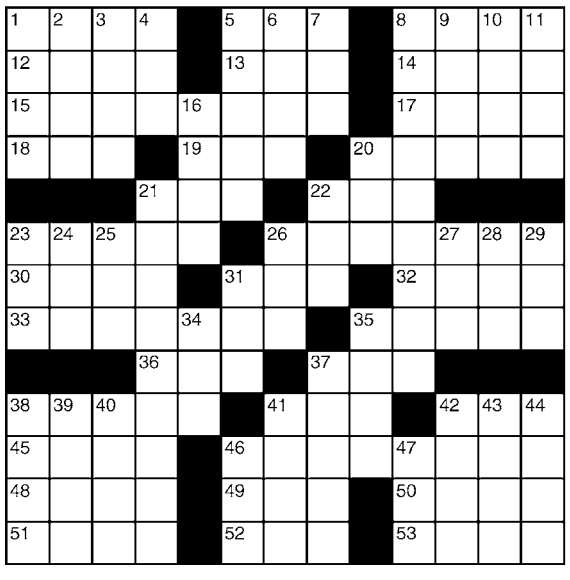
ACROSS
1 Uppity sort
5 Actor McBride
8 "Gosh darn!"
12 Emanation
13 Shack
14 Wan
15 Dressy garb
17 Newman or McCartney
18 The whole enchilada
19 Inseparable
20 Frothy matter
21 Make marginalia
22 Susan of "L.A. Law"
23 Station
26 Please
30 Ellipse
31 Comic Leno
32 Screenwriter James
33 Corridor
35 Turns the soil
36 Sweet potato
37 Tibetan beast
38 Covers in smoky powder
41 Mai — (cocktail)
42 Carte lead-in
45 Cab
46 Robin Hood's posse
48 Throat clearer
49 Cushion
50 Fail to include
51 Mysterious character
52 120 min. = 2 —
53 1-Across' protrusion?

DOWN
1 Long story
2 — and void
3 Exam format
4 Malicious
5 Intone
6 Ginormous
7 "— Impossible"
8 "South Pacific" song
9 Birthright barterer
10 Crony
11 "South Park" kid
16 Cheer
20 Vast expanse
21 Popcorn brand
22 Desiccate
23 Homer's "Phooey!"
24 Longoria or Mendes
25 Crony
26 Festive
27 "But — on forever": Tennyson
28 A small number
29 "Of course"
31 Predicament
34 Existed
35 Twosome
37 Football measures
38 Luminary
39 Diamond Head site
40 The yoke's on them
41 Rend
42 Bullets
43 Garlands from 39-Down
44 Initial stake
46 Speedometer stat
47 Thither

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	L	P	■	■	W	O	K	■	R	A	P	T
N	O	E	S	■	E	M	U	■	U	N	D	O
E	C	R	U	■	B	I	D	■	S	T	A	Y
W	H	I	S	K	■	T	O	S	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	I	M	■	S	P	E	E	C	H
B	R	A	N	D	E	D	■	A	L	P	H	A
L	I	M	B	■	G	U	M	■	L	E	A	N
O	P	I	U	M	■	B	A	R	B	E	R	S
T	E	S	T	E	D	■	P	E	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	C	L	I	P	■	S	K	A	N	K
S	U	C	H	■	V	E	T	■	E	R	I	E
O	K	I	E	■	A	S	H	■	R	E	L	Y
W	E	A	R	■	S	T	Y	■	■	A	E	S

Yesterday's answer 2-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Jason Leigh, 46; Christopher Guest, 60; Barbara Hershey, 60; Roger Staubach, 66

Happy Birthday: A serious outlook will enable you to work toward your personal goals. Be aggressive and it will show others you mean business and won't stop until you reach your destiny. Take the initiative and you will find yourself in a power position that will set the stage for many years to come. Your numbers are 14, 16, 27, 31, 38, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't wait for things to fall apart. Position yourself so you can handle whatever comes your way. Someone you trust may let you down, so don't share your secrets, concerns or ideas. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take care of your own responsibilities so that no one can point the finger or complain about you. Love is on the rise and a trip, outing or some form of fun and entertainment should be in your plans. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can dazzle everyone with your clever ideas and ways of doing things. Focus on what you want and how you can make more money and you will be successful. It's important to push while the going is good. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take a closer look at your personal papers and investments. There may be a few things you should change or clear up. Get any matter out of the way that concerns government agencies, large corporations or institutions. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be emotional, lovable and in the mood for a little romance today. Don't make a promise you aren't going to keep or tell someone you are in love if you aren't. As long as what you do and say comes from the heart, you will build a solid base and a strong relationship. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take a break and do something nice for yourself. A little pampering time alone with someone you love or even a new look, outfit or attitude will enhance you personally, helping you get what you want. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Explore new avenues, try new things and, most of all, experience things that will give you greater perspective on your future and your personal life. Don't get disgruntled if someone you are close to doesn't approve. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let the people closest to you cause you upset. They are only trying to look out for you. You may not please family but you must please yourself. Take a deep breath and proceed to the finish line. You won't be sorry. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Explore the interests you have and you may find a way to turn something you love doing into a profitable endeavor. Hard work, dedication and believing in your abilities will lead to the winner's circle. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stand your ground and you will get your way. Your determination and resistance will be what counts. Don't let anyone who is negative stand in your way. Now is not the time to slouch when there is so much to gain. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take a second look at something that interests you. Trying something different will lead to a host of new friendships and plans. An unusual pastime or hobby can provide greater confidence and possible prosperity. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep your personal life mysterious and focus on what you can offer professionally. If you can be totally businesslike, you will intrigue the people you are dealing with and therefore get more in return. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You like to be in the lead, to take things apart to see how they work and to race about until you find or get what you want. You are determined, aggressive and strong-willed.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

5	8	3				7	4	9
2			8		7			5
9								6
	9		5		3		7	
	5		6		4		1	
3								7
6			1		8			4
7	4	5				6	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	6	7	9	5	4	3	1
5	7	3	1	4	8	2	9	6
9	4	1	6	2	3	8	7	5
7	9	4	3	1	2	6	5	8
6	5	2	8	7	4	3	1	9
3	1	8	9	5	6	7	4	2
2	3	7	5	8	1	9	6	4
1	8	9	4	6	7	5	2	3
4	6	5	2	3	9	1	8	7

Difficulty Level ★ 2/04

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ROMANCE NOVELS **Solution: 8 letters**

T	E	G	E	V	O	L	P	I	T	E	G	T	N	T
I	S	N	T	H	E	A	R	T	V	A	S	N	R	I
M	A	I	N	E	G	M	C	I	W	E	M	I	O	T
E	E	D	N	E	S	R	L	I	B	R	A	R	Y	L
F	L	N	S	O	B	O	O	K	S	L	I	P	O	E
R	E	E	L	P	G	N	L	T	R	S	C	T	R	F
A	R	V	L	I	T	A	O	C	I	I	A	F	E	T
M	E	O	C	H	G	R	T	N	P	A	L	L	H	R
E	T	S	E	S	Y	A	C	O	U	P	L	E	C	O
K	C	M	D	T	E	P	T	T	R	E	E	H	N	H
I	E	I	H	R	W	I	H	E	A	P	V	S	O	S
S	D	G	T	U	O	O	V	D	E	R	O	C	V	S
S	I	E	U	O	R	W	M	O	G	E	N	R	E	T
F	E	S	A	C	X	T	E	E	M	E	F	I	L	C
L	E	E	T	S	R	E	G	E	N	C	Y	E	S	A

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Acts, Author, Best, Books, Case, Classic, Close, Core, Couple, Courtship, Ending, Exotic, Fight, Format, Genre, Heart, Hero, Ideas, Kiss, Lead, Library, Life, Live, Logic, Long, Love, Main, Meet, Movies, Noted, Novella, Novels, Pages, Paranormal, Plot, Print, Protagonist, Regency, Release, Shelf, Short, Solve, Steel, Story, Themes, Time Frame, Title, Topic, Trial, Women, Words, Writer

Yesterday's Answer: Bedlam

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CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*	
• 1st position	**$10**
• 2nd position	**$3**
• Succeeding positions	**$1**

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

Combo (Print and Online)*	
• 1st position	**$13**
• 2nd position	**$4**
• Succeeding positions	**$2**

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)	
• Up to 6 positions	**$5**
• More than 6 positions	**$10**

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

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Brady's O-line fails him

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP SPORTS WRITER

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—The New England Patriots' big, brawny and bearded guys were just plain bad.

The AFC champions' heralded offensive line allowed a season-high five sacks to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl on Sunday, failing to give Tom Brady the type of tight protection they had guarded him with all season.

"It's one of those things where they have a great front seven," center Dan Koppen said. "They have tremendous players up there and they just outplayed us."

Their inability to protect Brady was a major reason the Patriots' quest for perfection ended with a disappointing, history-making 17-14 loss.

"They have some great pressure schemes, obviously some great pass rushers," Brady said. "Once we kind of got the idea of what we were doing, I thought we handled it much better, but we didn't get the ball in the end zone enough."

Coming in, Brady had been sacked a career-low 24 times this season playing behind a line that produced three Pro Bowlers in Koppen, left tackle Matt Light and left guard Logan Mankins. Throw in right guard Stephen Neal and right tackle Nick Kaczur, and Brady played most of his record-breaking season not having to worry much about getting hit by bloodthirsty defenders.

"I like when I don't get touched," Brady said earlier in the week.

Then, disaster struck—in the form of an all-out, pressure-packed swarming defensive attack by the Giants—in the worst possible setting. It was the first time Brady had been sacked as many as five times since the New York Jets did it on Sept. 21, 2003.

New England had no answer for the Giants' bulldozing defense.

"If I could tell you, we'd have it fixed," running back Kevin Faulk said. "At the same time, they outplayed us."

They sure did, and left Brady wondering what hit him. Brady simply had no time to find Randy Moss and his other targets on a regular basis against the Giants. He should've known he was in for a long day when he was sacked by Kawika Mitchell and Justin Tuck on consecutive plays midway through the second quarter.

It didn't help that Neal left after Tuck's sack, and didn't return.

"He was an upset guy," Giants linebacker Antonio Pierce said of Brady. "He was yelling at his linemen. I think that worked in our favor."

The offensive line was also clearly rattled by the Giants, with Light being called for false starts on consecutive drives in the third quarter.

With 19 seconds left in the game and the Patriots facing a do-or-die scenario, Brady was sacked for the final time when Jay Alford pulled him down at New England's 16-yard line. Brady was left with nothing to do but try two straight desperation heaves to Moss to no avail.

"I think their intensity from the beginning snap to the end of the game was really higher than ours," Moss said. "We just couldn't meet that intensity."

The Giants came in with 56 sacks, including the playoffs, and showed in their Week 17 loss to the Patriots that they could be a force against New England's line. Brady was sacked just once and threw for 356 yards and two touchdowns in that one, but was hit repeatedly and forced to stray from the game plan.

It happened again in the Super Bowl, only worse.

With help from their linemen, the Patriots set NFL records for points scored and total touchdowns, while Brady broke the league mark for TD passes and Moss set the record for scoring receptions. That high-powered offense was held to a season-low 14 points in the Super Bowl—mostly because it couldn't get time.

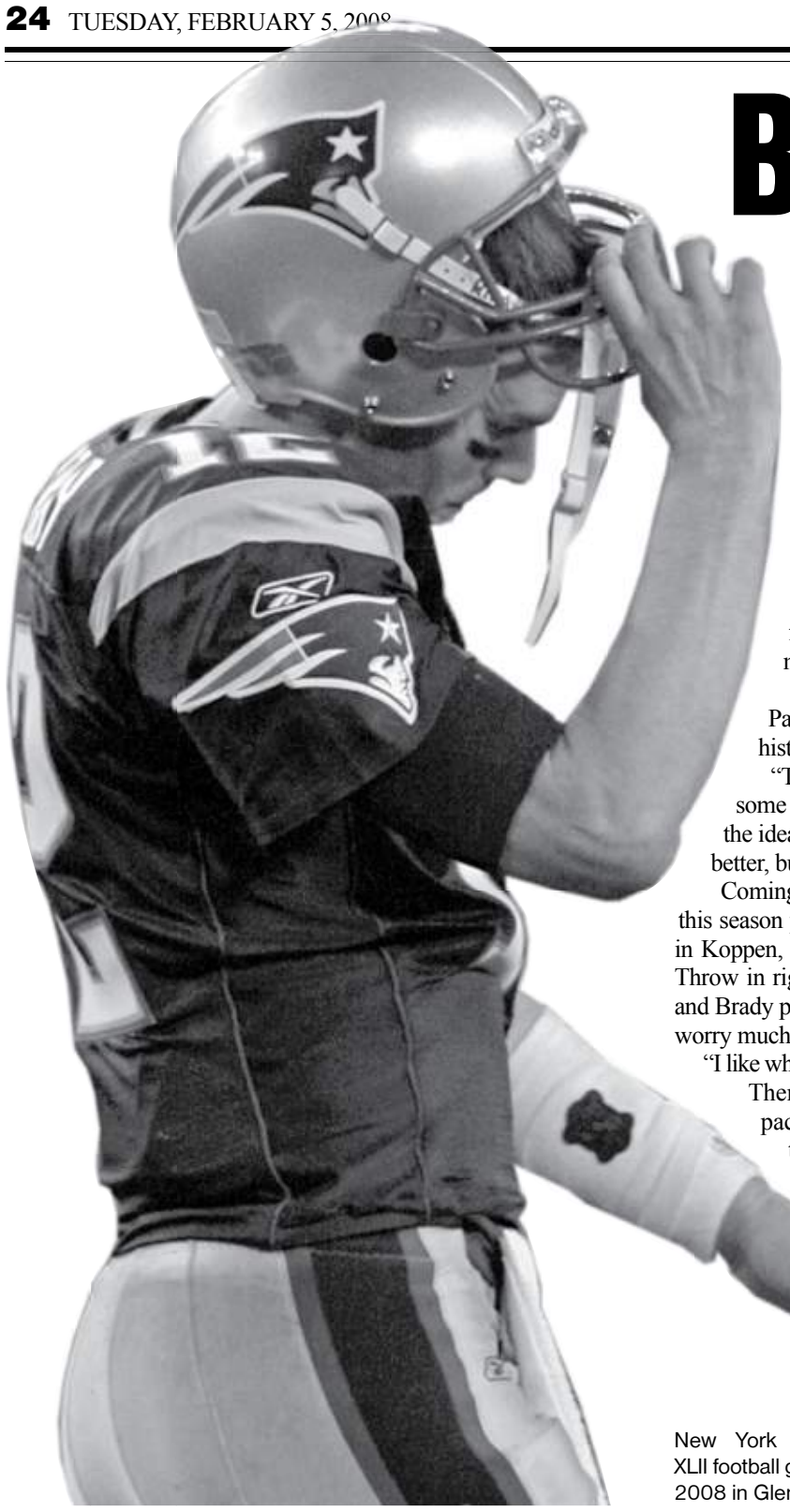
"They played well defensively," coach Bill Belichick said. "They've been able to rush. They led the league in sacks, they rushed all year. They are a good defensive football team. They played well."

While the Giants were still celebrating their upset victory a half-hour after the game ended, the Patriots and their offensive linemen were headed to the team buses for a disappointing ride back to the hotel.

The offensive line received a great deal of attention this week, for their consistency—and for the hair on their face. All five of Brady's bunch had some sort of facial hair going on, including Neal's Fu Manchu and Mankins' big, bushy Grizzly Adams-like beard.

It's safe to say they were red-faced after their embarrassing performance against the Giants.

"We all could've done things better tonight," Brady said.



AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady walks off the field after the New York Giants beat the Patriots 17-14 during the Super Bowl XLII football game at University of Phoenix Stadium on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008 in Glendale, Ariz.

Giants' defense spurs Super Bowl upset

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Plaxico Burress miscalculated. Tom Brady and the New England Patriots couldn't get 17 points against the New York Giants defense.

Michael Strahan, Justin Tuck and Osi Umenyiora hounded and hit Brady from start to finish, limiting the NFL's all-time best offense to just two touchdowns in a stunning 17-14 victory that will go down as one of the biggest upsets in Super Bowl history.

The 14 points were a season low for a team that was looking for a place in history.

Now it has one.

"I don't even think anyone expected us to win the ballgame," said Burress, who created a stir in the week leading up to the Super Bowl by predicting the Giants would upset the then-perfect Patriots 23-17.

"For our defense to go out and play the way it did against Tom Brady, who I have so much respect for, and Randy Moss, the best receiver in football, I would have never imagined that those guys would have held them to 14 points."

Burress admitted his prediction put a lot of pressure on the defense, although they didn't mind as they hounded Brady.

"They (told me) you're giving them too much credit," Burress said. "I said: 'Excuse me,' and they went out and played their hearts out."

The Patriots scored an NFL-record 589 points this season and Brady threw a league single-season record 50 touchdown passes, including 23 to Moss, another mark. No team had held them under 20 points.

Along came the Giants, a team that won its final 11 road games and limited three previous opponents to an average of 17 points.

Against New England, the Giants were even better. They held the Patriots to 274 yards in total offense, including just 45 yards rushing.

Key to the Giants defensive game plan was pressure. They sacked Brady five times and hit him nine.

"That's wrong," defensive end Osi Umenyiora said. "I hit him that many times by myself. We hit him a lot more than that."

Brady finished 29-of-48 for 266 yards and one touchdown, a 6-yarder to Randy Moss with 2:42 to play against a defense that was running out of gas. It capped a 12-play, 80-yard drive on which several exhausted defenders limped off the field.

"You know what, the only thing I was thinking in the final two minutes was that we gave up the touchdown that lost us the ...," first-year defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo said.

The Giants didn't lose because Eli Manning led a game-winning 12-play, 83-yard drive that he capped with a 13-yard touchdown pass to Burress, of course.

Spagnuolo said the Giants wanted Brady to throw short, tackle after every catch and limit the running game.

Brady said the defense did a good job of mixing things up.

"They were just more than we could handle tonight," Brady said.

It should have been obvious Brady was in for a long day when linebacker Kawika Mitchell and Tuck sacked him on consecutive plays in the second quarter.

The last big play came in the final minute when rookie tackle Jay Alford took over for a winded Fred Robbins and planted Brady on a second-and-10 from the New England 26 with 19 seconds to go.

Two more desperation passes from Brady and the Giants were beginning to celebrate their third Super Bowl title.

Strahan, a seven-time Pro Bowler who opted to return this season after mulling retirement for the entire training camp, knelt on the ground and looked up at the roof at the University of Phoenix Stadium. After 15 years, he had his Super Bowl ring and championship.

"We watched a lot of TV," Strahan said. "We had a lot of free time. I remember somebody saying the Giants have a false sense of confidence from the first time they played. We got confident. My guys are the best in the world."

The defensive effort came a month after the Patriots ripped the Giants for 38 points in the final game of the regular season. Brady passed for 356 yards and four touchdowns that day.

"Honestly we were laughing at the TV saying the Patriots were going to win this football game, like we didn't have a shot," Tuck said. "Nobody gave us a shot but these 53 guys in the locker room, the coaching staff and the fans. It's amazing what you can do when a small group of guys get together and believe in one thing."

On Super Bowl Sunday, the Giants believed and won a championship.

Saints' Charles Grant stabbed in assault

BLAKELY, Ga. (AP)—New Orleans defensive end Charles Grant was stabbed in the neck, and a pregnant woman was shot and killed early Sunday in an altercation at a nightclub in southwest Georgia.

Grant was assaulted and had an injury to his neck, according to a statement released by Capt. Will Caudill of the Early County Sheriff's Office. Grant was transported to Early Memorial Hospital, where he was treated and later released.

Early County Sheriff's deputies responded to reports of a fight around 1 a.m. Sunday at a nightclub in Blakely, which is about 190 miles southwest of Atlanta.

"We're aware of the situation and are gathering information," New Orleans Saints spokesman Greg Bensel said. "Until we complete the process, we will have no further comment."

In the incident, 23-year-old Korynda Reed of Blakely was shot, police said. She was transported to Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan, Ala., where she died. Early County Sheriff Jimmie R. Murkerson said Reed was pregnant.

Caudill said there was no known connection between Grant and Reed.

"We believe the altercation began inside one of the nightclubs; it was taken outside. It kind of continued down the street," Caudill said. "It appears Mr. Grant was assaulted, and shortly after several gunshots were fired."

No arrests have been made, and the case remains under investigation.

A star at the University of Georgia, Grant was drafted by the Saints in the first round of the 2002 NFL draft.

Grant, a native of Colquitt, Ga., who now lives in Kenner, La., had 2 1/2 sacks in 2007 while starting 14 games for the Saints. During his six-year career, Grant has 38 1/2 sacks.

Tiger wins Dubai with spectacular charge

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Tiger Woods watched his 25-foot putt race down the slope and bend toward the cup, then he skipped backward and punched the desert air in celebration when it disappeared into the cup for a final birdie.

So ended his spectacular charge Sunday to win the Dubai Desert Classic over Ernie Els, a familiar victim. Woods birdied his last two holes, and five of his last seven, for a 7-under 65 to start his season with two victories that looked nothing alike.

One week was an eight-shot victory at the Buick Invitational. The next week was his largest comeback in eight years when Woods rallied from a four-shot deficit with an array of impressive shots that make him look tougher to beat than he already is.

"I'm just happy to get a win out of this," Woods said.

It was the third time Woods has started his season 2-0, another sign that he could be headed for a big year. He now has won his last four official tournaments, and six of his last seven dating to the Bridgestone Invitational in early August. Woods also won his unofficial Target World Challenge by seven shots in December.

"It's the ideal start, isn't it?" Woods said. "You play to win. So far, I've done that this year."

Woods finished at 14-under 274 for a one-shot victory over Martin Kaymer of Germany. Woods had already posted his score when Kaymer, who won two weeks ago in Abu Dhabi, closed birdie-birdie-eagle for a 66.

But the real victim was Els.

He started the final round with a one-shot lead over Henrik Stenson and was four shots clear of Woods. The 38-year-old South African missed par putts inside 5 feet on the 11th and 12th holes to lose the lead, but he still had a chance to force a playoff with a birdie on the par-5 18th. Instead, Els hit 5-wood that came up well short and ended up in the water.

He finished with a bogey for a 71 and tied for third with Louis Oosthuizen.

It was a devastating blow to Els, who stared at the ground as he walked toward the 18th green. He is in the middle of a three-year plan to overtake Woods at No. 1 in the world, and said at the start of his season that he needed to start winning.

This was the perfect occasion, and he let it slip away in familiar fashion. Two years ago at Dubai, Woods birdied the last two holes to force a playoff against Els, then beat him when the South African hit his second shot into the water on No. 18.

This one never had a chance.

"The second shot on the 18, it was right where I had it, but I could see the gust got it in the air and it didn't have much of a chance in the end there," Els said.

Reaching No. 1 now looks like a lost cause.

Woods has more than double the points over second-ranked Phil Mickelson, and when asked about the gap over Mickelson, Woods playfully said, "I thought Ian Poulter was No. 2?"

That was a reference to Poulter being quoted in a British magazine that he was the only one capable of challenging the world's No. 1 player. Poulter closed with a 76 on Sunday and tied for 39th.

It was the largest comeback for Woods since he made up a five-shot deficit at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in 2000, a final round that included holing out from the 15th fairway.

This was almost as impressive. Woods lost momentum with bogeys on the sixth and ninth holes, but he poured it on along the back nine with six birdies to win Dubai for the second time.

"All of sudden I was in the mix, out of the mix," Woods said.

It started with a chip-in for birdie from a thick lie in the rough. Then came a tough flop shot from a tight lie, a bunker between Woods and the hole, that he caught perfectly to about 5 feet for birdie on the 13th.

"I thought I had to shoot 30 to get into a playoff," said Woods, who shot 31 on the back nine. "It just happened to be good enough."

Woods hit a perfect drive on the 359-yard 17th to just left of the green, leaving him a good angle for a chip that he hit to 8 feet for birdie. Then came the 18th, when Woods though his 5-wood for a second shot was perfect.

It went long, just short of the bunker, leaving Woods an awkward chip down the slope, with water on the other side.

"I could easily chip the ball in the water," Woods said. "You have to make your mistake short and if I leave it too short, just chip up and try to make a par and (I'm) probably not going to win the tournament, but see what happens."

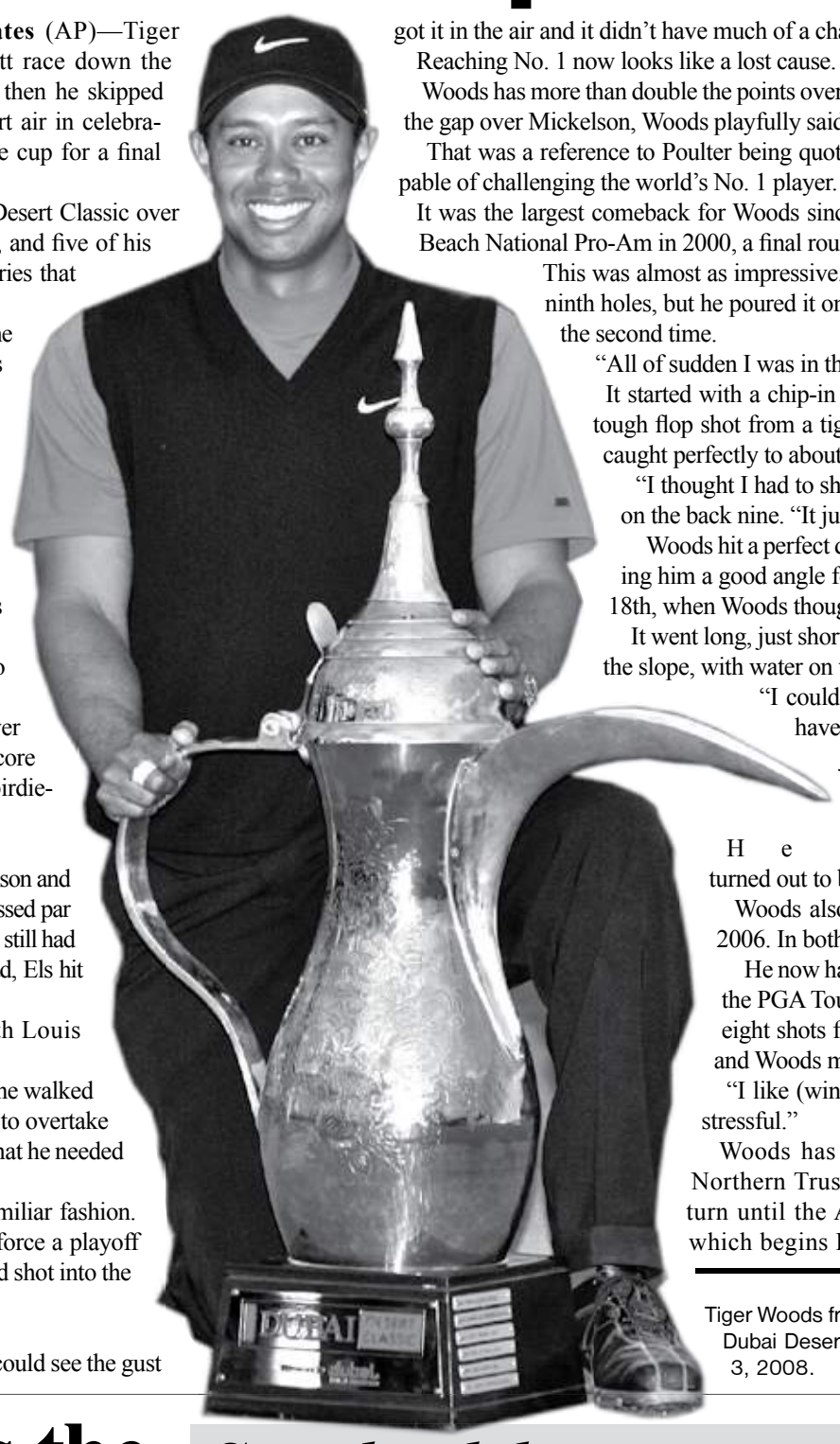
He came up short, but holed the 25-foot birdie putt that turned out to be good enough.

Woods also won his first two events of the season in 2000 and 2006. In both those years, Els was among his early victims.

He now has won 72 times worldwide in his career, 62 of those on the PGA Tour. A week ago at Torrey Pines, Woods won by at least eight shots for the ninth time in his career. This was much tighter, and Woods made no secret which one he prefers.

"I like (winning) by seven or eight a lot," he said. "It's a lot less stressful."

Woods has until Friday to decide whether he will play the Northern Trust Open at Riviera, although he likely will not return until the Accenture Match Play Championship in Arizona, which begins Feb. 20.



AP

Tiger Woods from the United States poses with the trophy after he won Dubai Desert Classic in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008.

Kobe scores 30 as the Lakers beat Wizards

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kobe Bryant outscored the Washington Wizards all by himself in the first quarter Sunday. Then he let his Los Angeles Lakers teammates in on the fun.

Bryant put up 19 points in the opening period on his way to finishing with 30 on 10-of-15 shooting, and the Lakers had no need for the newly acquired Pau Gasol in a 103-91 victory over the Wizards.

Gasol, the 7-foot Spaniard who came over from the Memphis Grizzlies in a trade Friday, sat on the sideline in a pinstriped suit jacket, listening to tips on the Lakers' triangle offense from assistant coach Brian Shaw.

The 2002 NBA Rookie of the Year's new teammates put on quite a clinic, too, repeatedly making the extra pass to find wide-open looks at the basket. The Lakers compiled 27 assists on 41 field goals, with Vladimir Radmanovic scoring 15 points, Lamar Odom 14, and Ronny Turiaf 13.

None, though, provided anything as spectacular as Bryant.

His every move greeted by a mix of boos and cheers from the sellout crowd of 20,173, Bryant mixed baseline drives and finger rolls with midrange jumpers and 3-pointers, including one as he curled around a screen in the fourth quarter.

Antawn Jamison led Washington with 21 points and 11 rebounds, while Washington's All-Star representative, Caron Butler, returned from a three-game injury absence and scored 15.

Only 6 1/2 minutes into the game, the man chiefly assigned to guard Bryant, DeShawn Stevenson, already was sitting down with three personal fouls, a black T-shirt over his jersey. Another player assigned to try to slow Bryant, rookie Nick Young, picked up his third foul with just under 2 minutes left in the second quarter.

Butler also tried to defend Bryant, with similar results. On one sequence, Butler was spun around on Bryant's twisting baseline drive for a layup. On another, Bryant made a 3-pointer over the outstretched hand of his former teammate.

Add it up, and Bryant helped Los Angeles build a 30-15 lead after one quarter - or, put another way: Kobe 19, Wizards 15.

Bryant had 25 points on 8-for-11 shooting by halftime, when the Lakers were up 63-41 - the most points allowed by Washington in a first half this season.

Los Angeles made 66 percent of its shots in the half, while limiting Washington to only 36 percent.

Sore back keeps travel weary Gasol out of Lakers' game Sunday at Wizards

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pau Gasol sat out the Los Angeles Lakers' 103-91 victory at the Washington Wizards on Sunday, not quite ready to play for his new team because of a sore back, a hectic 48 hours and an unfamiliarity with the triangle offense.

"We want him to practice first. He traveled back and forth across the country, up all night, short hours of sleep. This isn't a fair situation for him," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said before Sunday's game.

"We'll practice tomorrow and see how he feels," Jackson said. "Play with the guys before we have him going into an NBA game with the 'Showtime' thing."

Gasol, the 2002 National Basketball Association's Rookie of the Year and a 2006 NBA All-Star, averaged 18.9 points and 8.8 rebounds for the Memphis Grizzlies this season, his seventh with the team.

The Spaniard missed three of four games because of an ailing back before Friday's trade. The Grizzlies got Kwame Brown, rookie Javaris Crittenton, two first-round picks in the annual NBA draft, cash and the rights to Gasol's brother Marc. The Lakers also received Memphis' 2010 second-round draft pick.

"I didn't see it coming. I didn't know anything about it," Gasol said. "I'm trying to digest everything that's been going (on) with me the last two days, and get ready to rock and roll."

He wore jeans and a black zippered sweater for a brief news conference at the Wizards' arena—the first three minutes were in Spanish, the next four in English—then went to the visiting locker room to change.

Moments later, Gasol was out on the court for some shooting and low-post drills, wearing a purple T-shirt and purple shorts and standing a few meters from Lakers guard Kobe Bryant.

Asked whether this deal will put an end to the talk about whether Bryant would be traded, Jackson replied: "It depends on how well it works. ... It will give us a more complete game, a more fluid game. Kobe sees that it will give us some opportunities to come back in games."

After scoring 30 points to lead the Lakers past the Wizards, Bryant was asked whether he'd like to see general manager Mitch Kupchak make another move before the trade deadline.

"I'm letting Mitch handle that stuff," Bryant said. "I gave up playing GM in the summer."

Pistons 90, Mavericks 67

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Rasheed Wallace backed up his talk with 21 points and nine rebounds, leading the Detroit over Dallas.

Wallace said the Pistons had to take advantage of the undersized Mavericks by going inside, and he did.

Dirk Nowitzki had 15 points on 3-of-18 shooting and 10 rebounds for the Mavericks, who had their lowest scoring game of the season and worst shooting performance at 30 percent.

Tayshaun Prince scored 16 and Richard Hamilton scored all 10 of his points in the second half for the Pistons.

Coconut Classic starts tennis season

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipan tribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association open up the 2008 season with the Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament, which will take place on President's Day weekend.

NMITA vice president and tournament director Jeff Race is advising interested players that will join to start their preparations. "I know some of you can hardly wait and there are others who need to brush the cobwebs off their racquets."

The tournament will be held from Feb. 15 to 18 at the American Memorial Park courts. The entrance fee is $15 where checks should be made payable to NMITA.

The deadline for submission of entries is at 5pm on Feb. 9, Saturday. The seeding and draw will be held on Feb. 10, Sunday, at 6:30pm. Draws will be posted after 1pm on Feb. 14, Thursday, at Pacific Islands Club, All Star Sports, and AMP.

Race is advising all players to check the draws between Feb. 14 and 15 at All Star Sports or at AMP. Players are limited to one doubles and one singles event.

Events to be offered are men's singles, men's over-40 singles, and women's singles in the adult division. The junior events are boys' and girls' 9-, 13-, and 18-and-under.

The tournament will also offer the "mixed-up" doubles where one adult will be paired with one child on a random draw format. "Will draw one adult and one child out of the hat to play together. I don't actually know of any other tournament like this anywhere."

Race is inviting everyone to join them and enjoy three days of tennis during President's Day weekend.

For more information, call Race at 483-5652.

THE BABY

From Page 28

run Manning out of town, the kid will be crowned the king of New York. His stats won't bowl over people back in the Big Apple—19 -of-34 for 255 yards, two touchdowns and an interception—but the way he performed on that fateful final drive certainly will.

"I can't be happy for anybody else. This is a guy who took all that criticism," Giants linebacker Antonio Pierce said. "Well, you can't criticize the MVP. ... Making all those plays with his feet; it was a beautiful thing to watch."

Earlier in the week, Manning joked about being forced to play "permanent center," while middle brother Peyton was the quarterback and older brother Cooper played receiver in all those backyard games at the Manning home in New Orleans.

"I guess this means I've stepped up," Eli said. "Maybe I can be a receiver now."

"Better than that," Peyton said outside the Giants locker room. "I guess I'll have to let him throw a few now."

Considering how Eli performed on the final drive, he just might demand the lion's share. Starting from his own 17 with 2:39 left, Manning hooked up twice with Amani Toomer, the second leaving the Giants facing a fourth-and-inches. After Brandon Jacobs plowed his way to a first down up the middle, Manning showed some surprising footwork by escaping the New England rush and scrambling for five yards. Turns out that was just the prelude.

One play later, the Patriots threw another kitchen-sink blitz at Manning. Linebacker Adalius Thomas had his shirt and tried to throw Manning to the ground. Instead, he ducked down and used the momentum to spin away, then set his feet and fired a high strike 32 yards down the field. Receiver David Tyree made a spectacular grab on the ball, pinning it against his helmet as he fell to the ground with New England safety Rodney Harrison draped across his shoulders.

"You try to get small sometimes and see if you can squeak through," the 6-foot-4 Manning said with typical understatement. "You just try find a hole to squeeze through and make a throw."

By comparison, the deciding touchdown throw to Plaxico Burress was routine. After finding Steve Smith in traffic in the middle of the field for 12 yards and another first down, Manning found Burress on a fade route in the left corner of the end zone and lofted a floater as the New York sideline exploded in celebration.

"He's always being compared to somebody, whether it's his dad or his brother or Phil Simms," said Giants center Shaun O'Hara, recalling Simms' 22-of-25 performance in the 1987 Super Bowl.

This one wasn't about precision, but grit.

"Tonight," O'Hara said, "I think Eli built himself a platform for others to be compared to him."

Heading out toward the team bus, Manning didn't seem interested in any comparisons. He's faced outsized expectations nearly his whole life, and he spent most of last week trying to soft-pedal comparisons to Patriots superstar Tom Brady.

Too often, Manning has played the game like it was a burden instead of a birthright. But as he headed into the night, he did so as only the second quarterback in Super Bowl history to throw two fourth-quarter touchdowns in a winning effort. The other guy to do it? Joe Montana.

But he'd already impressed the one guy he most wanted to.

"I guess we almost wore my dad out," Manning said. "He kept saying, 'Do you have to make things tough, everything in the last minute, just to keep it entertaining?'"

A wide smile creased the kids' lips.

"Well," Eli said, "that was entertaining all right."

GIANTS

From Page 28

Manning said. "The way we win games, and performed in the playoffs in the stretch. We had total confidence in ourselves. The players believed in each other."

It was the most bitter of losses, too, because 12-point favorite New England (18-1) was one play from winning and getting the ultimate revenge for being penalized for illegally taping opponents' defensive signals in the season opener against the New York Jets.

"I don't rank them," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "It's disappointing."

The Giants had the perfect answer for the suddenly imperfect Patriots: a big, bad defense and the improbable comeback led by Manning. Yes, Eli Manning, who outplayed league MVP Tom Brady and furthered the family legacy one year after older brother Peyton led Indianapolis to the title.

"I talked to Peyton and he said, `Go in there, have some fun, you can do it.'"

It was how Eli and the Giants did it.

After Brady found Randy Moss for a 6-yard touchdown with 2:42 to go, New England's defense couldn't stop a final, frantic 12-play, 83-yard drive. It featured Manning's unlikely sack-avoiding scramble and a spectacular leaping catch by David Tyree, who had scored New York's first touchdown on the opening drive of the fourth quarter.

"It's the greatest feeling in professional sports," Burress said before bursting into tears.

"That's a position you want to be in," said Manning, who followed Peyton's MVP performance last year with one of his own. "You can't write a better script. There were so many big plays on that drive."

And now the 1972 Miami Dolphins can pop another bottle of champagne in celebration of a record still intact, the NFL's only perfect season.

"As for the 1972 Dolphins, I don't take joy in the fact the Patriots lost - period," said Jim Mandich, the tight end on the 17-0 team. "But I do relish and savor the fact that there has only been one unbeaten team in the history of the NFL, and it is the 1972 Miami Dolphins."

The Patriots were done in not so much by the pressure of the first unbeaten season in 35 years as by the pressure of a smothering Giants pass rush. Brady, winner of his first three Super Bowls, was sacked five times, hurried a dozen more and at one point wound up on his knees, his hands on his hips following one of many poor throws in New England's lowest scoring game of the season.

"They played well," a dour Belichick said. "They made some plays. We made some plays. They just made a few more. We played as hard as we could. We just couldn't make enough plays."

Hardly a familiar position for the record-setting Patriots and their megastar quarterback. This time, it wasn't the Patriots but the Giants making the game-winning rally. This time, the unflappable quarterback making the clutch play wasn't Brady but Manning, who had been booed by Giants fans for most of his four seasons for a lack of emotion.

Oddly, it was a loss to the Patriots that sparked New York's stunning run to its third Super Bowl and sixth NFL title. New England won 38-35 in Week 17 to finish the spotless regular season. But by playing hard in a meaningless game for them, the Giants (14-6) gained something of a swagger and Manning found his footing.

Their growing confidence carried them through playoff victories at Tampa, Dallas and Green Bay, and then past the mightiest opponent of all.

"Every team is beatable, you never know," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "The right moment, the right time, every team is beatable."

Not that the Patriots were very mighty this day. They even conceded with 1 second on the clock as Belichick ran across the field to shake the hand of Coughlin, then headed to the locker room, ignoring the final kneeldown.

That it was Manning taking that knee was stunning. He showed the maturity and brilliant precision late in the game usually associated with, well, Brady.

Peyton Manning was seen in a luxury box jumping up and pumping both fists when Burress, who didn't practice all week because of injuries, caught the winning score.

"We just hung in there on offense, kept executing," said Burress, who wasn't far off on the 23-17 prediction he made a few days ago. "It came down to one play and we made it."

The Giants became the first NFC wild card team to win a Super Bowl; four AFC teams have done it. They also are the second wild-card champions in three years, following the Pittsburgh Steelers after the 2005 season.

"It's the way we went about our work," Coughlin said of the 11-1 road record. "The road signified the coming together of a team. We rode that emotion all the way through."

The upset also could be viewed as a source of revenge not only for the Giants, but for the other NFL teams over Spygate back in September. That cheating scandal made headlines again late in Super Bowl week, and could have placed an infinite cloud over New England's perfection.

Until the frantic fourth quarter, the only scoring came on the game's first two drives.

The Giants did almost exactly what they sought with the opening kickoff, using up nearly 10 minutes to go 63 yards. Almost exactly, but not quite, because they settled for a 32-yard field goal after converting four third downs on the 16-play series. The 9:59 drive was the longest in Super Bowl history.

That 3-0 lead lasted for the rest of the quarter, but only because the Patriots were stopped at New York's 1 as the period expired. On the next play, Laurence Maroney scored.

New England's 12-play drive was aided by a 16-yard pass interference penalty on linebacker Antonio Pierce in the end zone. It began with Maroney's 43-yard kickoff runback.

It was the fewest possessions in the first quarter of a Super Bowl.

New York's first series of the second quarter looked dangerous after Amani Toomer's lunging sideline catch for 38 yards. But rookie Steve Smith mishandled Manning's throw at the New England 10, Ellis Hobbs intercepted and returned it 23 yards.

Those are opportunities teams can't waste against a strong opponent, let alone the Patriots. It was Manning's first interception of the postseason, albeit entirely not his fault; the last was by Hobbs in the season finale.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	36	8	.818	_
Toronto	25	21	.543	12
New Jersey	20	27	.426	17 1/2
Philadelphia	18	29	.383	19 1/2
New York	14	33	.298	23 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	31	18	.633	_
Washington	24	22	.522	5 1/2
Atlanta	19	24	.442	9
Charlotte	18	30	.375	12 1/2
Miami	9	36	.200	20

Central Division

Detroit	34	13	.723	_
Cleveland	26	20	.565	7 1/2
Indiana	19	29	.396	15 1/2
Chicago	18	28	.391	15 1/2
Milwaukee	18	30	.375	16 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	32	14	.696	_
Dallas	31	15	.674	1
San Antonio	29	16	.644	2 1/2
Houston	27	20	.574	5 1/2
Memphis	13	34	.277	19 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	30	18	.625	_
Denver	28	18	.609	1
Portland	27	19	.587	2
Seattle	12	35	.255	17 1/2
Minnesota	10	36	.217	19

Pacific Division

Phoenix	33	14	.702	_
L.A. Lakers	30	16	.652	2 1/2
Golden State	29	19	.604	4 1/2
Sacramento	22	24	.478	10 1/2
L.A. Clippers	14	30	.318	17 1/2

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Lakers 103, Washington 91
Detroit 90, Dallas 67

DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC SCORES

Final Round

Tiger Woods, United States	65-71-73-65	274
Martin Kaymer, Germany	67-73-69-66	275
Ernie Els, South Africa	68-72-65-71	276
Louis Oosthuizen, South Africa	73-69-69-65	276
Graeme McDowell, Nothern Ireland	67-72-69-70	278
Ricardo Gonzalez, Argentina	72-71-72-65	280
Peter Hedblom, Sweden	69-70-70-71	280
Soren Hansen, Denmark	68-72-70-70	280
Henrik Stenson, Sweden	68-70-68-74	280
Niclas Fasth, Sweden	72-71-70-68	281
Thomas Levet, France	67-71-72-71	281
Ross Fisher, England	69-70-71-71	281
Lee Westwood, England	69-71-68-73	281
Bradley Dredge, Wales	73-72-68-69	282
Jean-Baptiste Gonnet, France	72-68-72-70	282
Paul McGinley, Ireland	71-72-69-70	282
Scott Hend, Australia	67-72-72-71	282
Gary Murphy, Ireland	67-72-71-72	282
Jeev Milkha Singh, India	67-76-69-71	283
Robert Karlsson, Sweden	70-70-73-70	283
Anthony Wall, England	73-72-68-70	283
Thongchai Jaidee, Thailand	69-73-70-71	283
Otto Hennie, South Africa	69-70-72-72	283
Sergio Garcia, Spain	68-71-70-74	283

SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS

2008	N.Y. Giants (NFC) 17, New England (AFC) 14
2007	Indianapolis (AFC) 29, Chicago (NFC) 17
2006	Pittsburgh (AFC) 21, Seattle (NFC) 10
2005	New England (AFC) 24, Philadelphia (NFC) 21
2004	New England (AFC) 32, Carolina (NFC) 29
2003	Tampa Bay (NFC) 48, Oakland (AFC) 21
2002	New England (AFC) 20, St. Louis (NFC) 17
2001	Baltimore Ravens (AFC) 34, N.Y. Giants (NFC) 7
2000	St. Louis (NFC) 23, Tennessee (AFC) 16
1999	Denver (AFC) 34, Atlanta (NFC) 19
1998	Denver (AFC) 31, Green Bay (NFC) 24
1997	Green Bay (NFC) 35, New England (AFC) 21
1996	Dallas (NFC) 27, Pittsburgh (AFC) 17
1995	San Francisco (NFC) 49, San Diego (AFC) 26
1994	Dallas (NFC) 30, Buffalo (AFC) 13
1993	Dallas (NFC) 52, Buffalo (AFC) 17
1992	Washington (NFC) 37, Buffalo (AFC) 24
1991	N.Y. Giants (NFC) 20, Buffalo (AFC) 19
1990	San Francisco (NFC) 55, Denver (AFC) 10
1989	San Francisco (NFC) 20, Cincinnati (AFC) 16
1988	Washington (NFC) 42, Denver (AFC) 10
1987	N.Y. Giants (NFC) 39, Denver (AFC) 20
1986	Chicago (NFC) 46, New England (AFC) 10
1985	San Francisco (NFC) 38, Miami (AFC) 16
1984	L.A. Raiders (AFC) 38, Washington (NFC) 9
1983	Washington (NFC) 27, Miami (AFC) 17
1982	San Francisco (NFC) 26, Cincinnati (AFC) 21
1981	Oakland (AFC) 27, Philadelphia (NFC) 10
1980	Pittsburgh (AFC) 31, L.A. Rams (NFC) 19
1979	Pittsburgh (AFC) 35, Dallas (NFC) 31
1978	Dallas (NFC) 27, Denver (AFC) 10
1977	Oakland (AFC) 32, Minnesota (NFC) 14
1976	Pittsburgh (AFC) 21, Dallas (NFC) 17
1975	Pittsburgh (AFC) 16, Minnesota (NFC) 6
1974	Miami (AFC) 24, Minnesota (NFC) 7
1973	Miami (AFC) 14, Washington (NFC) 7
1972	Dallas (NFC) 24, Miami (AFC) 3
1971	Baltimore Colts (AFC) 16, Dallas (NFC) 13
1970	Kansas City (AFL) 23, Minnesota (NFL) 7
1969	N.Y. Jets (AFL) 16, Baltimore Colts (NFL) 7
1968	Green Bay (NFL) 33, Oakland (AFL) 14
1967	Green Bay (NFL) 35, Kansas City (AFL) 10

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

HANMI Cup Standings

Fiesta-Grand	5	1
Aqua Resort	5	1
Pacific Islands Club	3	2
Hyatt Regency	2	2
Hafadai Beach Hotel	2	3
World Resort	1	5
Aquarius Beach Tower	0	4

Giants fans whoop it up after historic upset

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER
and By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
A football patron raises his arm to celebrate the New York Giants victory over the New England Patriots during the Super Bowl XLII broadcast at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio yesterday.

Bedlam erupted at Godfather's Bar as soon as Plaxico Burress caught Eli Manning's 13-yard pass that highlighted the New York Giants' 17-14 win over the highly favored New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII.

Thousands of miles away from the University of Phoenix Stadium, local football fans of both squads on Saipan stayed glued to TV sets in various bars from Garapan to San Antonio anxiously waiting for history to unfold.

Giants fans celebrated all over Saipan when Burress made the catch with 35 seconds left that signaled the end of the Patriots' bid to become one of NFL's greatest teams and join Don Shula's 1972 Miami Dolphins as the only squad that went undefeated the entire season, including Super Bowl.

Garapan, where most of the hotels and bars are located, alone was bustling with activity as most that hosted Super Bowl parties were almost full.

Godfather's Bar, a known watering hole on Saipan, was packed with mostly Patriots fans as they outnumbered the Giants faithful. MARPAC marketing manager Jojo Camacho hosted the event where close to 100 football fans crammed themselves at the known Garapan landmark.

Camacho, who livened up the party by throwing jokes against Patriots fans that solicited cheers from Giants supporters, said the people makes the Super Bowl one big party. "It is an event where everybody, whether your friends or relatives, comes together and enjoys the game."

Camacho said MARPAC has been hosting Super Bowl parties on Saipan since the 1980s. "That was long ago. We have been doing this for over 20 years."

Scott Dottino, who co-owns Godfather's with Ron Biggers, said he is thankful for MARPAC's help. "I am very happy with the turnout. Thank you to MARPAC and Budweiser for hosting this event and giving away these prizes. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed awesome football action."

Over at Chambre Bar at Fiesta Resort & Spa, close to 50 fans—mostly Giants supporters—enjoyed the game while munching on the prepared food for the NFL's biggest game of the season.

F&B manager Lance Razon said most of those who watched the game at Chambre were military personnel, who have made reservations at the hotel as early as December.

Fiesta Resort employee Boy Sabate said they opened the bar as early as 7:30am where they offered a light breakfast to all customers. And as the game dragged on until the lunch hour, Sabate said, they also prepared lunch for all their customers.

Over at VFW Post, a small group of 25 regulars cheered on their teams where manager Manju Hom offered free food and drinks.

Former press secretary Pete Callaghan, who supported the 14-point underdog Giants, said VFW is the best place to watch the Super Bowl. "You are surrounded by your friends as you enjoy the Super Bowl."

Despite the loss, Army's Mike Murphy still threw his whole support to the Patriots. "I just came here to enjoy the game with my friends."

Lecturer Richard Brundage, who is the president of the Center for Advanced Media Studies, flew in from Kansas City, Missouri, just to enjoy the Super Bowl.

"I would love to watch the Super Bowl at Arizona but I always come to Saipan to hold seminars, which most of the time happen during Super Bowl weekend," said Brundage, who wrote a book about the CNMI and has been doing seminars on Saipan since 2005.

Over at Oleai Beach Bar and Grill, Charlotte Tenepere said she was the lone New York Giants fan in a roomful of New England Patriots diehards yesterday, so it was quite satisfying for her to watch the "Perfect Pats" succumb to the biggest upset in Super Bowl history.

Some 40-50 gridiron enthusiasts packed the Oleai venue, which party was sponsored by Camacho's MARPAC, according to the establishment's manager Mara Lambon.

Budweiser sales manager Mel Tenorio said he was happy with the turnout, considering that ballroom venues were simply out of the question this year.

Tenorio found a bit of solace as his Giants won over the Patriots, 17-14.

Pacific Trading Co., meanwhile, sponsored Super Bowl parties at Saipan Grand Hotel and World Resort Saipan.

SaipanCell Communications marketing representative James K. Lee and members of the 2007-2007 Budweiser Cup champions Rock Steady were part of about 20 people who watched the game at Grand Hotel's Southern Cross Bar.

World Resort's Redbox doubled what Grand Hotel had with 40 people, according to its supervisor Alvin Palma, but you wouldn't notice that with the decibel level the crowd generated when the Giants' David Tyree scored on 5-yard touchdown that capped an 80-yard drive to give them a 10-7 lead in the fourth quarter.

Of the Super Bowl venues yesterday, the biggest and rowdiest—hands down—was the one at Pacific Islands Club as more than 100 New England and New York fans squeezed in at Charley's Cabaret.

Clubmate-in-charge Mack McGillivray said despite the crowd's size, they didn't had any problems with the turnout and everyone was basically free to cheer for their favorite teams. The PIC party was sponsored by PTC.

Fiesta-Grand snaps Aqua's winning run

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipan tribune.com
REPORTER

Fiesta Resort and Spa-Saipan Grand Hotel finally ended defending champion Aqua Resort Club's five-game winning run Sunday night in the continuation of their suspended match in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League.

Fiesta-Grand survived a furious ARC fourth quarter rally to escape with a 92-88 win in the continuation oftheir Jan. 13 game that was halted by an unscheduled power outage at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

They played on Jan. 13 when the lights went out at 4:05pm with Fiesta-Grand holding on to a 12-point lead with eight minutes and 56 seconds left in the third quarter.

When play resumed Sunday, Fiesta-Grand held on to an 11-point lead, 74-63, then quashed Aqua's several fourth-quarter come back bids to drag their victims to a similar 5-1 record.

Fiesta-Grand zoomed to an early double-digit advantage as their relentless fast-breaking attacks allowed them enjoy a 30-19 lead after the first quarter and a 53-39 halftime spread.

Ryan Sanciangco scored 12 of his season-high 39 points in the fourth quarter going 8-for-9 at the free throw line to help preserve the win. He also had six rebounds a game-high five steals.

Elmer Esdrelon provided scoring support with an all-around game scoring 30 points, grabbing four rebounds, issuing six assists, and had one steal.

Darwin Barbo tallied 24 points, collared 10 rebounds, and had four assists to lead Aqua Resort's losing effort, while Gil Gapor backed him up with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Eric Dalangin was held to 13 points.

PIC 90, Hafadai 80

Derrick Tudela scored 16 points, grabbed 11 rebounds, and had four assists to lead six other Pacific Island Club players that finished in double figures in their 90-80 win over Hafadai Beach Hotel.

PIC used its height and speed to the hilt to outlast their opponents and secure their second straight win and third overall against two losses to occupy third place behind Fiesta-Grand and Aqua's 5-1 records.

Ho Kyun Lee, who was named best player of the match, scored all of his 12 points in the second half and collared a game-high 15 rebounds. He also had two steals and blocked two shots.

Butch Kaipat netted 14 points, had 13 rebounds, six assists, and two steals, while guards Raymund Tolentino, Marino Pungilug, and James Abuy combined for 31 points, 11 rebounds, four assists, and five steals.

PIC outhustled Hafadai in every department enjoying a 60-35 edge in rebounds, 18-12 in assists, and 10-7 in steals. Hafadai, however had seven shot blocks against the PIC's six.

Pete Iguel and Marlon Bamba combined to score half of Hafadai's points ending up with 61 points, 20 rebounds, seven assists, four steals, and four shot blocks.

Hyatt 104, World Resort 85

Edmark Mendoza scored 15 of his 21 points in the first half to help Hyatt Regency Saipan establish an early double-digit halftime lead before cruising to a 104-85 win over World Resort.

Steve Tenorio scattered 21 points in three quarters and never scored again after that since Hyatt was enjoying a comfortable lead. Mike Umali added 13 points.

Dennis Vinas paced World Resort with 26 points, while Jerryfel Mangahis had 21 markers, seven rebounds, five assists, and three steals. Leonard Ramos and Jam Navarro combined for 21 points and 12 rebounds.

First Game

PIC 90 – Tudela 16, Kaipat 14, Tolentino 13, Lee 12, Pungilug 11, Abuy 10, Pambid 10, Fernandez 2, Valdez 2.

Hafadai 80 – Iguel 35, Bamba 26, Olaitiman 6, Calayag 5, Mendoza 3, Andal 2, Nedlic 2, Gokesan 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-22, 43-42, 67-58, 90-80.

Second Game

Hyatt 104 – Mendoza 21, Tenorio 21, Arreza 16, Umali 13, Dillay 9, Aquino 7, Yamamoto 7, Rodrgiguez 5, Villamor 3, Vargas 2.

World Resort 85 – Vinas 26, Mangahis 21, Ramos 11, Navarro 10, Caruan 6, Palma 5, Wabinga 4, Valle 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-19, 53-32, 80-58, 104-85.

Third Game

Fiesta-Grand Hotel 92 – Sanciangco 39, Esdrelon 30, Alegre 8, Opone 6, Manglona 4, Carino 2, Licup 2, Ong 1.

Aqua Resort 88 – Barbo 24, Gapor 18, Dalangin 13, Achas 9, Alegre 8, Aquino 7, Takahashi 4, Johannes 3, Torres 2.

Scoring by quarters: 30-19, 53-39, 74-63, 92-88.

GIANTS'

From Page 28

"Other than family," he said, "the greatest feeling in the world is when, all of the sudden, you realize you're a world champion."

His wife, Judy, was standing outside the locker room shedding tears of joy. "Unbelievable," said the wife who has spent the last four decades following her husband through his overworked, somewhat underappreciated career.

Coughlin has spent 12 of those years as an NFL head coach, and that he outcoached Bill Belichick in his biggest game of all is no huge surprise—he's always had the Xs and Os down pat.

That he was able to keep his job this long, change his approach to players and get an entire team moving in the right direction took a little more doing.

Coughlin came to New York four years ago with some baggage from his first stint as a head coach in Jacksonville, where his rules and regulations, insistence on practicing in pads, flare-ups with quarterbacks and bad locker room chemistry seemed to override all the good things he accomplished.

He did nothing to dispel the reputation over the first three seasons in New York, and came into this season on the hot seat, one made hotter by the fact that he was in the most critical of markets, and that his record (25-23, no playoff wins) and temperament were less than stellar.

He didn't change his message, so much as he reinvented the delivery—creating a "players leadership council"—a small group of veterans who could get the low-down from the coach, then pass it on to teammates.

While Belichick fielded questions about "Spygate" all week, the best story on Coughlin was his supposed transformation.

The Giants opened the season 0-2 and the plan looked like a loser. Then, Coughlin sent a new message: That there was no group of guys he'd rather have there with him.

Soon after, the winning began. Six straight games to become a contender, then a steadily rising arrow for the rest of the year, though not without a few dispiriting setbacks. The defining moment—and maybe Coughlin's most critical decision—resulted in a loss.

He played the starters in the last regular-season game against New England even though the Giants had nothing to gain from it.

"The best way to prepare for a difficult challenge is to go through a difficult challenge," he explained again and again during Super Bowl week.

Giants fans whoop it up after historic upset

Bedlam erupted at Godfather's Bar as soon as Plaxico Burress caught Eli Manning's 13-yard pass that highlighted the New York Giants' 17-14 win over the highly favored New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Brady's O-line fails him against Giants

The New England Patriots' big, brawny and bearded guys were just plain bad. The AFC champions' heralded offensive line allowed a season-high five sacks to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl on Sunday. 24

Giants stun 'perfect' Pats in Super Bowl

New York Giants linebacker Zak DeOssie holds up a newspaper after the Giants beat the New England Patriots 17-14 in the Super Bowl XLII football game on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008, in Glendale, Ariz.

AP

By BARRY WILNER
AP FOOTBALL WRITER

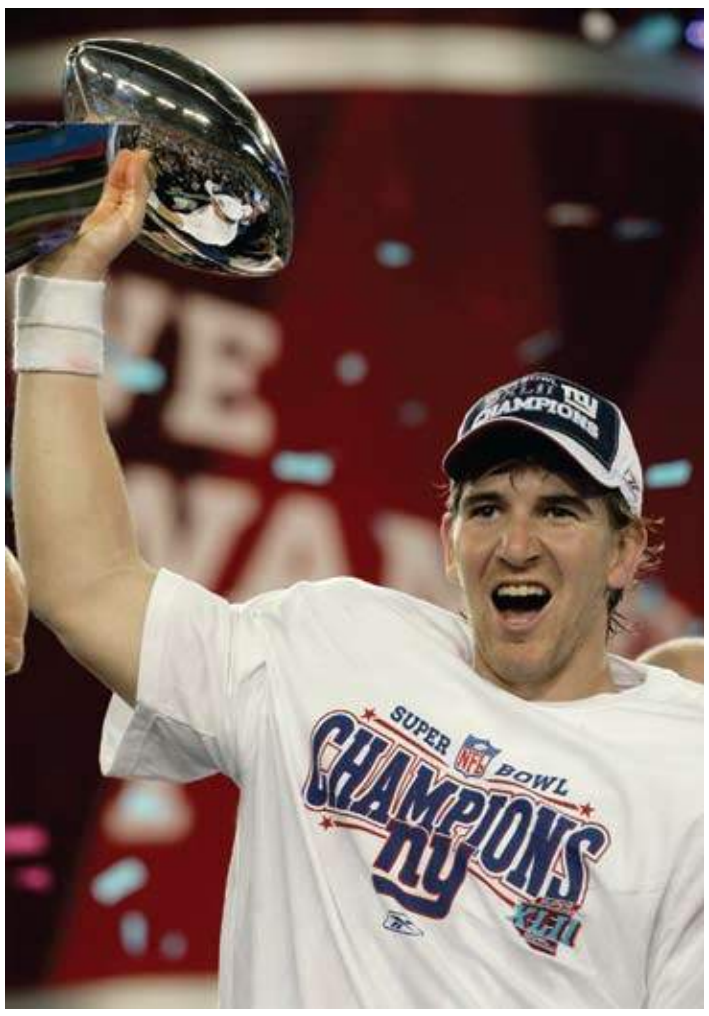
GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—With the Super Bowl on the line, look who had the perfection thing down Pat: Eli Manning and the road-conquering New York Giants. And what a beauty their 11th straight road victory was, a 17-14 Super Bowl win Sunday that shattered the New England Patriots' unblemished season.

In one of the biggest upsets in Super Bowl history, Manning, New York's unlikely Mr. Cool, hit Plaxico Burress on a 13-yard fade with 35 seconds left. It was the Giants' fourth consecutive postseason away win and the first time the Patriots tasted defeat in more than a year.

"There's something about this team,"

See GIANTS on Page 26

The baby brother comes into his own



AP

New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning holds the Vince Lombardi Trophy as he celebrates after the Giants beat the New England Patriots 17-14 in the Super Bowl XLII football game on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008, in Glendale, Ariz.

By JIM LITKE
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Move over, Peyton. Make room in the Manning family trophy case, Archie.

Baby boy Eli is coming home with hardware all his own—a Super Bowl ring and an MVP trophy to place alongside the ones his big brother brought back only a year ago.

"I never thought about them even playing college ball, much less pro football, much less winning Super Bowls or MVPs," Archie Manning said. "It wasn't in the plan. We tried to raise kids just like other parents raised their kids. I can't explain it."

The youngest son of a great quarterback and the baby brother of an even better one came into his own Sunday night in the desert, proving cooler than the falling temperatures by leading the Giants 83 yards on a final scoring drive to stun the Patriots 17-14 and cap one of the greatest upsets in sports.

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"That's a position you want to be in. You want to have the ball in your hands ... down, where you've got to score a touchdown," Manning said after accepting the MVP trophy from Terry Bradshaw, a pretty fair quarterback himself.

"I talked about it before with Peyton," Manning added a few moments later. "You want to be down four (points), where you have to score a touchdown. Because if you're down three, maybe we settle for the field goal."

Just a few weeks after fans and the media wanted to

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Giants' Coughlin finally breaks through

By EDDIE PELLS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—It might be time to dump all those unflattering images of Tom Coughlin yelling at people. Replace them with pictures of him holding up the Super Bowl trophy.

So long portrayed as an unkind, unbending caricature of himself, Coughlin got recognized as something different Sunday—a champion after leading his New York Giants to a stunning 17-14 upset of the no-longer-undefeated New England Patriots.

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AP

New York Giants head coach Tom Coughlin is doused by his player Madison Hedgecock after the Giants beat the New England Patriots 17-14 in the Super Bowl XLII football game on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008, in Glendale, Ariz.